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**News Media Coverage
May 2009**

**University of San Diego Media Coverage
May 2009**

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Commencement 2009

COMMENCEMENT STAR POWER

Popular culture often
a source for speakers

By Matthew T. Hall
and Leonel Sanchez
STAFF WRITERS

Few adults past middle age can recall the keynote speaker at their college graduation. But celebrity culture — not to mention Obama mania — is changing all that.

This year, three local universities have plucked speakers from the pop culture pantheon. Mike Judge, father of "Beavis & Butt-Head," is at the University of California San Diego; Jim Parsons from "The Big Bang Theory" is at the University of San Diego; Lisa Ling from "The Oprah Winfrey Show" is at National University.

And San Diego State University has

Mayor Jerry Sanders, who spun some fatherly advice for more than 2,000 graduates at Cox Arena yesterday.

Such appearances might lack the star power Barack and Michelle Obama have generated at other commencements this season, but chances are San Diego County's college grads will remember this bunch 20 years from now.

Even so, Parsons is prepared for the worst. At 36, the sitcom actor, whose name is being bandied about for Emmy consideration, can't say who spoke the day he got his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston.

"That's the sad part," he said this week, taking a break from his speech writing and rehearsing for tomorrow's ceremony at USD. "All this toil I'm going through for nought."

Kidding aside, the people who pay attention to such things say that commencement speakers have become a big concern for big-time colleges and

REMAINING CEREMONIES

Today and tomorrow: University of San Diego and San Diego State University
June 3: Grossmont College
June 4: Cuyamaca College
June 7: National University
June 12-13: University of California San Diego

universities, where planners often start lining up candidates in the fall.

"One of the biggest differences between 1989 and 2009 that I've seen when selecting a speaker is there's more input on campus," said Randall Kennedy, a higher-education communications consultant. "Everybody is asking themselves today — students, faculty and administration — who is relevant?"

Local universities don't have a uni-

SEE GRADUATIONS, B5

► GRADUATIONS CONTINUED FROM B1

Colleges vary
on how they
select speakers

form way of choosing who will address all those graduates, family members, faculty, school officials and fundraisers who make up every commencement crowd.

National University chooses names from a national speakers bureau and has paid a parade of high-profile people — Danny Glover, Robin Roberts, Edward James Olmos, Meredith Baxter — unnamed sums for the wisdom of their words.

A small student committee makes a recommendation for the keynote speaker at UCSD, and USD has a formal decision-making process governed by a five-person executive council.

SDSU, on the other hand, has no set method.

"There really isn't a big process here," SDSU spokesman Greg Block said. "There's no big committee meetings. Somebody makes a recommendation and they all kind of say, 'Yeah, that's a good idea.'"

Sanders, an SDSU alumnus, reminded those achieving the same status yesterday that they were graduating during tough economic times. He challenged them to rise to the occasion.

"Take chances," Sanders told the College of Arts and Letters graduates during his speech. "Prepare for multiple careers. ... Don't be afraid to go after different jobs. Try things that are meaningful to you."

While Sanders prepped for his speech by discussing talking points with Darren Fudgill, the staffer behind his words, Parsons was on his own.

He wrote and rewrote, read drafts aloud to friends and showed copies to others. Before that, he read speeches by Bill Gates, Jon Stewart and David Foster Wallace and watched an address by J.K. Rowling on YouTube.

His goal was to find inspiration but not outright steal anything for his eight to 12 minutes at the lectern.

"I have not a goal in sight of being listed among the top 50 commencement speeches ever given," Parsons said. "In fact, if I can just make it onto the list of people who got through them, I'll consider it a great success."

USD is excited he's taking

the time, especially because he obtained a master of fine arts degree there.

Tim O'Malley, vice president for university relations and a fan of Parsons' CBS show, first suggested his name as a speaker, for his success and his youth, but mainly his status as an alumnus.

Some administrators still needed convincing.

"It's not that uncommon for academics not to be totally tuned into the pop culture," O'Malley said.

And that's not necessarily so bad.

"The main thing is, we want to be sure that our commencement speakers are first and foremost able to connect with our graduates and leave them with some perspective or some advice or a story of their own that will resonate."

At SDSU's ceremony, Sanders' speech went over well with Ginger Borgert-Perez, 32, who received her bachelor's degree in Spanish.

"I know we're going to have to be more resourceful than the people who graduated before us," she said.

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May 25, 2009



Monee Dulay of Rancho Peñasquitos crossed the stage yesterday to receive her diploma at USD. Howard Lipin / Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO

A day of pride for USD families

Hundreds awarded diplomas at Catholic university's events

By John Wilkens, STAFF WRITER

Boyan Kelchev had never set foot in the United States before he arrived from Bulgaria four years ago to attend the University of San Diego on a scholarship.

Yesterday Kelchev delivered the valedictory address at the private Catholic university in Linda Vista

while two other Bulgarians visiting America for the first time sat nearby — his parents.

They don't speak English, so except for the thanks he offered them at one point in their native tongue, they couldn't understand a word he said. But the looks on their faces spoke of something understandable in any language: pride.

Kelchev's speech came during the first of two graduation ceremonies at USD. About 675 graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences received their

SEE Graduates, B4

► GRADUATES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

In all this year, USD awarded 2,200 diplomas

bachelor's degrees in the morning at the Jenny Craig Pavilion — watched and applauded and videotaped by beaming, flower-bearing relatives and friends.

An additional 550 from business administration, engineering and diversified liberal arts took the walk in their caps and gowns in the afternoon. Including other ceremonies earlier this month, USD awarded 2,200 diplomas this year as it celebrated its 60th anniversary.

Kelchev, 22, a computer science major, talked about how his father, an engineer, was skeptical that someone who had never met his son would give him a scholarship worth about \$45,000 a year.

That someone was Gerard Smolin. He created the scholarship in honor of his late wife, Vessella Zaykova-Smolina, who grew up in Bulgaria and dreamed of attending school in the United States. They met at USD, where both earned law degrees.

Kelchev said he heard about the scholarship as he was looking around for U.S. campuses to attend.

"I wanted to experience different cultures, to get out of my comfort zone, to just kind of

grow up," he said in an interview.

The trip from Pazardzhik, a town of about 70,000, took 24 hours. He was met at Lindbergh Field by other USD students, whose drive back to the campus was, to him, a maze of left turns at red lights.

"I was terrified," Kelchev said.

He settled down enough to carry a 4.0 grade-point average and earn minors in Spanish and math. He is starting an internship soon at a local software-development company.

"Be proud. Stay humble. Be grateful," Kelchev told the class of 2009 in his address.

The students gave him a standing ovation.

Jim Parsons, an actor who earned a master's degree in fine arts at USD and now stars in the CBS comedy "The Big Bang Theory," gave the commencement address for the College of Arts and Sciences. Parsons suggested that graduates do work they love, but to be realistic about the hurdles.

"Doubt and uncertainty are constant companions in life," he said. "I'm sorry to have to say that."

Preparation is a good way to conquer doubt, Parsons said. "Try little changes. See where they lead." He told them to learn to forgive themselves.

And then he offered this: "Never stop surprising yourself."

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USD graduates Brittney Kuhn and Austin Griggs congratulated each other after receiving their diplomas at the campus' Jenny Craig Pavilion yesterday. Howard Lipin / Union-Tribune photos



Alejandro Cervantes' mortarboard showed he was thinking ahead as he sat yesterday with other graduates at USD's commencement ceremony on the Linda Vista campus.



College grads of '09 step into uncertain world

By Peter Rows
STAFF WRITER

Mortarboards, gowns, inspiring speakers, beaming parents, job offers by the cubic ton: the rites of college graduation never change. Except when they do.

"Everyone always told us that we'd have a job before we even graduated," said Joy Salvatin, 23. A week ago, she left San Diego State University with an aerospace engineering degree but without employment. She's far from alone: "Only a handful of us have even had interviews."

The National Association of Colleges and Employers, a Pennsylvania career counseling outfit, notes that times are tough for job hunters with new bachelor's degrees. Two years ago, half of college students landed a job offer before commencement. In this recession-rolled year, fewer than one in five can say the same.

Recently, we talked with three jobless graduates — one each from SDSU, the University of San Diego and Point Loma Nazarene University — about their plans and prospects. We'll check back with them this summer, to see how they're faring.

For now, these three have finished their formal education. They've walked off campus — but they're not yet sure where they're walking to.

JESSICA DEFILIPPO
University of San Diego



On DeFilippo's wish list:
• A job in marketing or public relations.
• An annual salary that's not less than \$35,000.
• And a cheerful reply to well-wishers. "A lot of people tell me, 'Oh, it's so exciting that you are graduating,' I tell them that I'd be more excited if I had a job."

DeFilippo, 21, earned a business administration degree from USD, graduating last Sunday. The Rancho Santa Margarita native is looking for work in Los Angeles, Orange County and New York City.

"Those three are pretty equal right now, as long as it's the right opportunity. (But) I feel like the right opportunities are few and far between."

Her definition of "right" covers a lot of territory, including the concept "moral." A few days before graduation, she turned down an interview with an L.A. firm in the exciting world of multilevel marketing — in other words, a pyramid scheme.

While DeFilippo lacks any solid prospects, she does have a firm game plan. She's moving back to her parents' house to save money; earning spending money by working weekends for an Irvine auction company, The Gavel Group; and working her contacts. She's signed up with several online job sites, which alert her BlackBerry when new positions are posted. A former officer in the Alpha Phi sorority, DeFilippo is well-linked and -liked in the Greek system. She'll also re-connect with people she met during internships with USD, San Diego's J Public Relations and *Orange Coast* magazine.

Busy? She intends to be.

"Some people want to just kick back, take the summer off — they worked so hard for four years. I just don't have that luxury."

CHRIS THACH
Point Loma Nazarene University



Thach, 22, graduated on May 18. A week later, he kicked his job hunt into high gear by partying. "I'm going to go to a couple of barbecues over Memorial Day weekend, try to meet people, follow up some."

That may sound more like a recipe for good times than steady work, but Thach's would-be profession relies on great social skills. Throughout his college career, he's wanted to be a real estate salesman. Falling home values and turmoil in the mortgage

SEE Grads, G3

GRADS CONTINUED FROM G1 Job search organized in stages

loan industry have forced him to reconsider.

"I'm slowly realizing that it might not be something that I'll get into right away."

Thach is trying to be flexible, but which way should he flex? He's open to a job in banking, but that's another field in crisis. A native Southern Californian, he'd like to stay in San Diego. "But right now, if I get an opportunity somewhere else, I'll take it."

With no interviews arranged, Thach left for a two-week road trip to Portland. His goals were twofold: to visit a friend and to scout the Oregon job market.

On his return to San Diego, Thach plans to check his alma mater's jobs board and ask alums for informational interviews, informal chats about the real estate and banking professions.

One thing he doesn't plan to do: ask his parents to help. As pastors of Long Beach Bixby North Cambodian, a Nazarene church, Aaron and Hannah Sao Thach have a broad network of contacts.

"But I feel like I'm a college grad. I'm hoping to see where that takes me on my own."

And he hopes the economy revives. In his four-year college career, the Dow soared and plunged, as did his hopes for a real estate career. "It's been a roller coaster," he said.

JOY SALVATIN
San Diego State University



Without a paying job, Salvatin will devote part of her summer to a volunteer project: shooting a 20-foot-tall

rocket nearly three miles straight up. If, that is, it leaves its Mojave Desert launch pad. "We'll see if it blows up or not. Two rockets ago, it blew up."

Salvatin belongs to a "rocket team," engineering students who blast their creations into the sky. A native of Northern California's San Ramon, she enjoys San Diego's climatic and professional environment. "A lot of industry is here for my field."

But she hasn't found many — make that *any* — entry-level jobs in her field. Those seem more plentiful around Washington, D.C., Texas and Washington state.

Like a rocket, Salvatin's plans are organized in stages. Stage One involved applying for aeronautical engineering jobs in the U.S. and abroad. Stage Two, pursuing mysterious, vaguely defined "government jobs." (An aunt in Virginia works for the CIA, Salvatin notes. "I'm not sure what she does. I don't have the clearance.") Stage Three, remaining in California to attend graduate school.

She'd like a job in the \$45,000-to-\$50,000-a-year range. "Or any salary, really!" For now, she is focusing on the advice of her mentor, Larry Hinkle, director of engineering student services at State. He counseled her to buff up her résumé. The rocket team and joining the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics should help.

Salvatin has down-to-earth interests, too. Her just-completed term as the Associated Students' executive vice president followed a year as president of Delta Sigma Psi. "My first plan is just to take a break."

The heavens can wait. Her first post-graduation destination: Vegas.



Expeditionary Strike Group THREE,


Written by Navy Compass

Tuesday, 26 May 2009 10:46



SAN DIEGO. (May 22, 2009) Rear Adm. Kendall L. Card, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE, addresses the audience as the key note speaker during the University of San Diego and San Diego State University Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) commissioning ceremony held on the University of San Diego campus. The 2009 ceremony celebrated the commissioning of 34 new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Damien Horvath/Released)

Próximas graduaciones



Algunas de las ceremonias de graduación en el Condado de San Diego incluyen:

Mayo 22-24:
Universidad Estatal de San Diego

Mayo 23-24:
Universidad de San Diego

Junio 3:
Grossmont College

Junio 4:
Cuyamaca College

Junio 12-15:
Universidad de California en San Diego

Las ceremonias de la Universidad Estatal de San Marcos, Palomar College, Mesa College y Universidad Point Loma Nazarene fueron el 16 de mayo. La del Miramar College fue el 21 de mayo y las de San Diego City College, Palomar College, MiraCosta College y Southwestern College fueron el 22 de mayo.

USD President / Board of Trustees

ART REVIEW

GREATNESS AND GRANDEUR

JASPER JOHNS AND ALLISON WIESE PUT THESE CONCEPTS IN PERSPECTIVE

By Robert L. Pincus
ART CRITIC

The recent show of Jasper Johns at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego focused on one stream of imagery, the light bulb, as it cut across sculptures and prints. A current exhibition includes more than four decades of work, in the various media of prints

(lithograph, etching, intaglio, aquatint and mezzotint).

It's fair to say that Johns is the greatest living American artist. Painting is at the core of this greatness, be it in his treatment of the American map, the American flag, targets or numbers. He may also be the greatest living printmaker, and this show, featuring 31 of them (along with a copper plate from an etching and two examples

of limited edition books), is a wonderful representation of his virtuosity and visual poetry.

"Jasper Johns: Selected Prints," in the Hoehn Family Galleries at the University of San Diego, was guest curated by John Digesare, registrar for exhibitions at the San Diego Museum of Art and a noted expert on Johns. The oldest work is a simple one, "Hand" (1963), in which an image of one of his

hands appears twice. It was a way of suggesting the figure had the presence of the artist behind it, and of symbol or archetype, without any pretension.

What a broad sampling of work like this underscores is just how much Johns' art creates a constructed world, with recurring symbols and motifs. The printed hand reappears, for example, in an atmospheric lithograph, "Savarin 3 (Red)" (1978). The image mentioned in the title — of a can containing brushes and other tools of the painter's trade — began life in his art as a cast sculpture in 1960, which he then painted to look just like the original. (It depicted the ordinary coffee can and equipment from his studio.)

The effect is to create a balance between idea and image, what Johns characterizes as "a thing's not being what it was, with its becoming something other than what it is." All art does this to some degree, but Johns cuts to the core of this notion, while making things that are incredibly seductive on a purely visual level.

One of the selections that does this with incredible finesse is "Ventriloquist" (1990). Fragments of the American flag — allusions to his famed paintings of the same — appear at either edge, rendered to look as if they are taped to the surface of the picture. Then,

DETAILS

"Jasper Johns: Selected Prints, 1963-2008"

When: Through June 14

Where: Hoehn Family Galleries, Founders Hall, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego

Tickets: Free

Phone: (619) 260-4281

Online: sandiego.edu

DETAILS

"Allison Wiese: Vista,"

When: Through June 14

Where: Seminal Projects, 2040 India St., Little Italy

Tickets: Free

Phone: (619) 696-9699

Online: seminalprojects.com

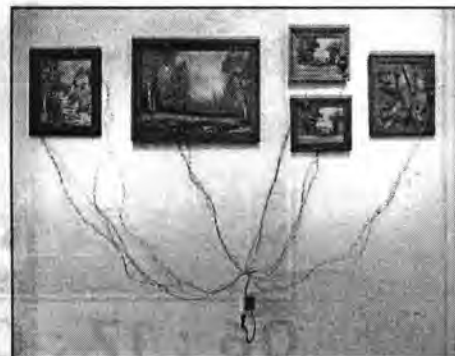
much of the rest of the lithograph is taken up with art he clearly appreciates keenly: pottery by the early 20th-century ceramicist George Ohr, which Johns collects, and the outline of Barry Moser's image of the Sperm Whale for a well-known edition of "Moby Dick." In a sense, Johns is speaking to you indirectly, through the things he includes, creating an image that isn't necessarily greater than the sum of its parts but does transform them in the process of using them.

The Hoehn Family Galleries is a fine venue for this kind of show, since the major mission

SEE Perspective, 24



Johns' art contains recurring, iconic images, one of which is pictured in the atmospheric lithograph "Savarin 3 (Red)." VAGA / Universal Limited Art Editions



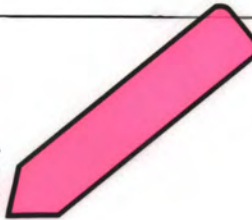
Landscapes by Robert Wood are wired up and contain little LED lights in Allison Wiese's exhibition, "Vista." Seminal Projects

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 21, 2009

PREVIEW SECTION

USD Art Gallery — "Jasper Johns: Selected Prints, 1963-2008," an exhibit of 29 prints by the American artist, runs through June 14; University of San Diego, Alcalá Drive, San Diego; 619-260-4261.



Alumni Honors 2009

Prominent hotelier honored by USD alma mater

By Arthur Lightbourn

If his entrepreneurial, radio-station-owning father hadn't gotten into the hotel business "by accident" in the late 1960s, Richard Bartell might still be a criminal defense lawyer like his childhood TV hero Perry Mason.

But such is life — and Bartell, now 60, is the energetic, well-seasoned president of Bartell Hotels, one of the largest and oldest independent family-owned hotel companies in San Diego.

Bartell also serves on a number of boards supporting the tourism and educational communities in San Diego. He is the vice chairman of both the San Diego Tourism Promotion Corporation and the San Diego Port Tenants Association.

Earlier this month, his law school alma mater, the University of San Diego, honored him with an Author E. Hughes Award for Career Achievement and contributions to public service.

Bartell joined his father's business — which in 1979 consisted of an AM rock radio station and three motels — after four years of living his dream, with 35 jury trials and an equal number of court trials to his credit, as a defense attorney with Defenders Incorporated, the predecessor of San Diego County's Public Defenders Office.

"I loved practicing law. I loved being a criminal defense attorney," Bartell said. "My father was encouraging me to work with him to help grow the family busi-

ness and for me, having the opportunity to work with my father really trumped anything else that I wanted to do..."

We interviewed Bartell in his home which he and his interior designer wife, Liz, built 25 years ago and where they raised their family.

Bartell is 150 pounds, with a salt-and-pepper hair and athletic stride of a man with a life-long passion for tennis. He and his wife met at the University of San Diego and where they have passed on to their two daughters who played tennis at the same women's tennis at the same two universities.

Another passion, Bartell work. "My love is my work. I don't travel, [except to visit his daughters and to Christmas vacation in Cabo]. Never been to Europe. Never been on a cruise ship."

He's definitely a San Diego stay-at-home kind of guy.

As president of Bartell Hotels, he runs seven hotels in San Diego representing 1,500 hotel guest rooms, five restaurants, three marinas and the popular Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay concert venue on Shelter Island.

The hotels include the Pacific Terrace Hotel in Pacific Beach, The Dana on Mission Bay, the Sheraton La Jolla Hotel, Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside, Best Western Island Palms Hotel and Marina on Shelter Island, Days



Richard Bartell
Photo/Jan Clark

Hotel in Hotel Circle, and Humphrey's Half Moon Inn and Suites, including Humphrey's Restaurant on Shelter Island.

Bartell was born in Milwaukee, Wis. His attorney father, Lee, with his brothers, Gerald, Mel and David, and their sister Rosa, founded the Bartell Group in 1950 and began buying and selling radio stations throughout the country. They would acquire stations in small markets, develop successful Top 40 programming, sell and then buy stations in larger markets, including San Diego.

In 1957, when Richard was 8, his father relocated the family to San Diego after acquiring radio station KCBQ where he established an ownership presence as general manager.

The Bartell group sold the station in 1968 and Bartell's father diversified into real estate, eventually buying a piece of land in Mission Valley that he hoped to lease to Holiday Inn, but when the deal fell through, Lee Bartell decided to build his own motel on the land.

"He built 176 rooms and called it Circle 711," Bartell recalls of his father's first hotel venture. "The Circle stood for Hotel Circle [San Diego's hotel district], the seven was the single rate and the 11 was the double rate."

"He was not a hotelier, but he was very entrepreneurial and he took a chance. And it was wildly successful."

"That's how we got into the hotel business and that's why I say it really was an accident. If Holiday Inn had decided to build where they originally intended to build, we would never have been in this business."

But Bartell's father also couldn't resist getting back into radio.

In the mid-1970s, Bartell senior bought local station KDGO, 910 on the AM dial, changed the call letters to Magic 91, and quickly established it as one of the most popular rock stations in San Diego.

Richard joined his father in 1979.

By 1980, FM stations had gained popularity and had cut into the AM music market. At the same time, the Mexican government had ordered all Mexican stations, including those on the border broadcasting in English into the U.S., to cease all religious broadcasts.

"Suddenly San Diego was left without a commercial religious-formatted radio station," Bartell said.

To fill the gap in 1981, Magic 91 switched its format from rock to religion, selling large blocks of radio time to ministers and evangelists. "It was a profitable venture," Bartell recalled. The family sold the station in 1990.

Also, during the early '80s, Richard and his father focused their energy on growing their hotel business.

"We envisioned where we wanted to be in 10 or 15 years. And, in the hotel business, you always come back to location, location, location. Those are the three most important things in determining success, followed closely by service, because if you're not performing at the highest standards of hospitality and service, people may come the first time, but they're not going to come back a second time."

Their strategy was to expand by acquiring other locations in San Diego over time, "specifically anything on the water."

"So, in the '80s, we acquired essentially underperforming assets that had great locations. You can always change your buildings, but you can't change the location."

"We knew if we had the location, there were expansion opportunities and we could rebuild, renovate and rebrand the property in a first class way."

He described his father as "extremely modest, extremely humble...He loved being an entrepreneur. He loved creating. He would take risks and make decisions based on facts that he knew at the time and he loved working."

Lee Bartell died in 1991.

"I worked with my father for 11 years and it was the best thing I ever did before or that will ever happen after," Bartell said. "Worked side-by-side with him every day. That's as good as it gets."

Bartell continued the strategy of buying underperforming assets in good locations, renovating, expanding and rebranding, installing superior management and marketing to create today's diversified mixture of independent and franchised properties.

How's business?

"Challenging," Bartell replied, "because of the recession. People are still travelling. Occupancy is still strong. There are families and couples still taking their vacations, but it's at lower rates than it used to be. And the corporate market is traveling less, although I do see that coming back now."

"We've been in business so long that we've gone through recessions before. And some of them have been very significant. So we know how to navigate through a recession. And I'm already seeing signs that things are improving."

Bartell said he has resisted laying off staff. "We've reduced hours for some employees. Part of being a family company is we've discounted hotel rates to keep the hotels full, to keep people employed and to give people hours. And when they're at the hotel, they also use our restaurants. So we've been able to avoid a major disruption in the lives of our employees by keeping them employed."

The company has 800 employees.

"They've been very good to us over the years and this is our opportunity to reciprocate."

Profile

Prominent hotelier resident honored by USD alma mater

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Bartell is 5-foot-8, 150 pounds, with a full head of salt-

and-pepper hair and the athletic stride of a person with a life-long passion for tennis, a passion he and his wife share [they met at tennis club in San Diego] and which they have passed on to their three daughters who played Division I women's tennis at their respective universities.

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Photo/Ion Clark

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Quick Facts

Name: Richard Bartell

Distinctions: President of Bartell Hotels, one of the largest and oldest independent family-owned hotel companies in San Diego County, founded in 1975, and currently owning and operating seven hotels representing 1,500 hotel guest rooms, five restaurants, three marinas and Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay concert venue on Shelter Island.

Resident of: Rancho Santa Fe for 25 years

Born: Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 60 years ago

Education: Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, 1971; J.D. from the University of San Diego, 1973.

Family: He and his wife, Liz (nee Mynko) have been married for 30 years. They met on the court of a tennis club in San Diego. They have three daughters, Hannah, 26, a hotel executive living in Los Angeles; Liddy, 25, an MBA student at Wharton School of Business; and Estee, 24, graduating from USD this month and interested in studying law.

Interests: Family and playing tennis with his wife, an avid tennis player, on weekends on their home court. "I don't travel. Never been to Europe. Never been on a cruise ship. My love is my work."

Reading: Legal thrillers.

Favorite authors: John Grisham, David Baldacci and Steve Martin.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 1, 2009



10 USD alumni will be honored at gala event

SAN DIEGO: Ten University of San Diego alumni will be honored on the Linda Vista campus tomorrow for their contributions to the arts, sports and other fields.

The gala event includes a dinner and begins at 5:30 p.m. in USD's Jenny Craig Pavilion.

Those set to be honored are playwright and actress Heather Raffo; human-rights activist Judy Ann Kamanyi; former Navy Nurse Corps member Denise Boren; local hotelier Richard Bartell; private equity investor John Cappetta; family therapist Sandy Cassell Farrell; tennis champion Zuzana Lesnarova; college administrators Leona and Patricia Makokis, both with Blue Quills First Nations College in Canada; and businessman L. Douglas Robert.

More information is available at (619) 260-4819. —S. Schmidt

[<< Back](#)



USD Honors Special Achievements at Alumni Event

Posted: May 03, 2009 10:30 AM PDT

Updated: May 03, 2009 11:51 AM PDT



The University of San Diego is celebrating its 60th anniversary and honoring 10 of its outstanding graduates.

News 8's Barbara Lee Edwards served as mistress of ceremonies for the alumni honors event.

University President Mary Lyons said honoring graduates who have made a difference in the world sets a great example.

The honorees came from all over the world and have made significant achievements in the arts, business, athletics and public service.



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College of Arts & Sciences

Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-virgin4-2009may04,0,6623680.story>

From the Los Angeles Times

Calexico restaurant says griddle has likeness of the Virgin Mary

The griddle at Las Palmas Mexican restaurant has been taken off the stove and is now displayed in a room that is quickly filling up with rosaries, flowers, votive candles and other offerings.

By Tony Perry

May 4, 2009

Reporting from Calexico, Calif. — A Mexican restaurant in this border town is drawing the curious and the faithful to see what some believe is a likeness of the Virgin Mary that appeared miraculously on a griddle.

A cook at Las Palmas restaurant was the first to see the image.

"She started to cry and didn't want to clean the griddle anymore," said Brenda Martinez, who manages the family-owned restaurant.

The griddle has been taken off the stove and is now displayed in a room behind the kitchen that is quickly filling up with rosaries, flowers, votive candles and other offerings left by visitors from the Imperial Valley and from Mexicali across the border.

"I feel she is here with us. I can feel her presence," said Joe Acuna, who owns a landscaping firm.

"She looks real, very real," handyman Mike Breseno said in Spanish.

The Rev. Edward Horning, associate pastor at St. Mary Catholic Church in nearby El Centro, examined the griddle Thursday. He would not say whether he thought the outline on the griddle looked like the Virgin Mary.

But he said, "If God wants to do something like this, he can do it."

To some visitors, the image looks like the Our Lady of Guadalupe artwork in a basilica in Mexico City, considered Mexico's most popular religious and cultural symbol. Mary is said to have appeared on a hill outside the city in 1531.

Among the offerings brought to Las Palmas was a replica of a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Visitors glance at the painting and then the image on the griddle — and some see a similarity.

"She's here, I know it," landscaper Alfredo Luna said.

Only the church hierarchy can confirm that the apparition is a true revelation.

But that hasn't stopped people — including several Mexican wrestlers in colorful costumes and masks — from making the trek to the restaurant, which is known for its *menudo* and *carne asada* and is tucked in a corner of a popular shopping center at Hacienda Drive and Ollie Avenue.

The restaurant — and the room with the griddle — is open Wednesday through Sunday.

Alberto Lopez Pulido, director and professor of ethnic studies at the University of San Diego, said that claims of apparitions, particularly of Mary, are not uncommon among Latino and Mexican Catholics.

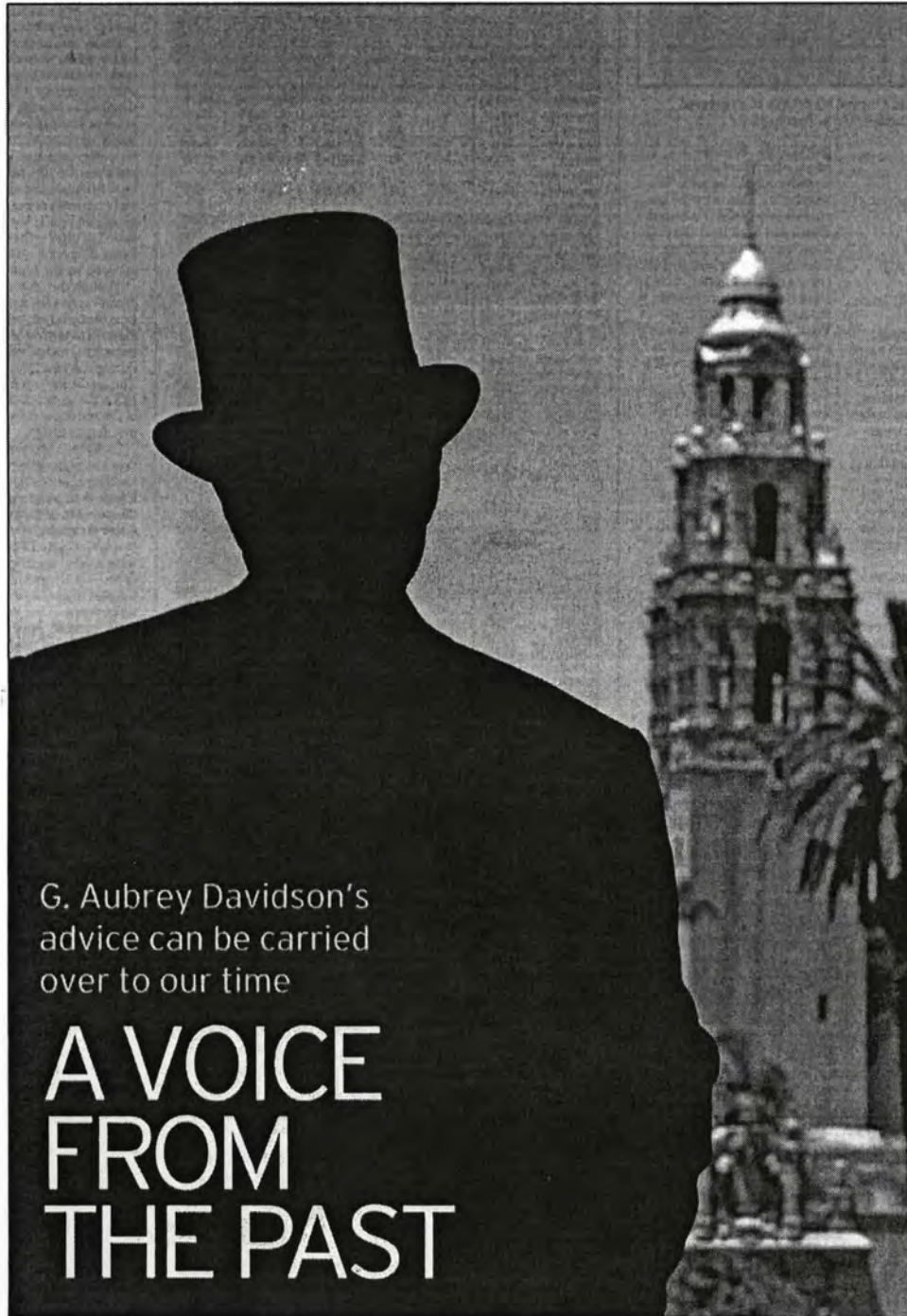
The Catholic Church in Central and South America is Mary-centered, while the church in most of North America is more Christ-centered, Pulido said. Seeing images of Mary in public places or work spaces fulfills the need of Catholics for a personal relationship to their religion outside the church, he said.

"It establishes a sense of community, of personal connection and access," Pulido said in an interview. "It makes their religion real to them."

Martinez said one of the cooks felt the image had materialized to give her strength after her brother's fatal heart attack a few days earlier.

"Mary is here for us," Martinez said. "She wants to show us her love and tell us to keep the faith."

Smokestacks & Geraniums ROGER SHOWLEY



G. Aubrey Davidson's
advice can be carried
over to our time

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Bill Davidson wore his grandfather's top hat when he visited Balboa Park recently to talk about the family's legacy of leadership. G. Aubrey Davidson led the campaign to hold the Panama-California Exposition in the park in 1915-16. *Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune*

A hundred years ago this summer, when San Diego's economy was in the dumps, G. Aubrey Davidson, 41-year-old president of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, proposed a way out of the doldrums.

"For 20 years this organization and the entire Pacific Coast have waited for the building of the Panama Canal," he told his board July 9, 1909. "It occurs to me that the (1914) opening should be the signal for San Diego to put on a great celebration, not just a county or state fair, but an international exposition."

Six years later, Davidson presided over the opening of the Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park, a two-year event that set San Diego on a new direction in the 20th century and left a legacy — the park, the Navy, high-tech industries — that lives with us today.

In recognition of his contributions, the Committee of 100, the group that watches over the expo buildings and grounds, will give its first Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Award posthumously to Davidson, whose grandson, Bill, will be present to accept the honor at the Friday luncheon in the park.

"Davidson was a visionary who could not only imagine great things but was able to persuade others that such things were possible," said Committee of 100 President Michael Kelly.

And the 1915 Expo wasn't Davidson's only accomplishment. An



G. Aubrey Davidson, wearing his signature top hat, greeted former President William Howard Taft in 1915. Davidson family photo

eight-grade dropout, born in Canada, he organized local sports teams in his youth; pursued a railroad career; shifted to banking; developed San Diego's Kensington neighborhood; worked tirelessly to entice the Navy and Marine Corps here; led several campaigns to save the Expo buildings; chaired the 1935-36 California Pacific International Exposition in the park; and served for many years on the boards of the YMCA, Army-Navy YMCA and First Presbyterian Church, which he helped build downtown. He died in 1957.

"Any one of the many things he has done would be a fitting memorial to any one of us here," said Edmund T. Price at a 1948 testimonial luncheon to celebrate Davidson's 80th birthday. "but I

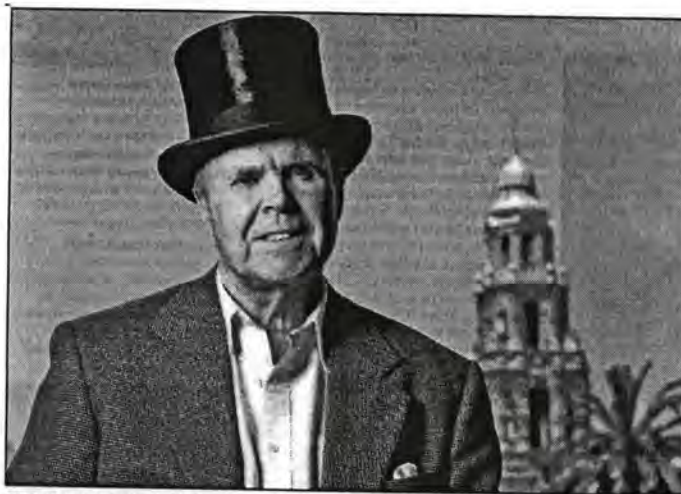
think the encouragement and helping hand he has given others is an attribute of greatness."

Davidson's example raises a question for today's San Diego, again in a slump — is there a leader in the house who can put things right?

"San Diego today could use someone like G. Aubrey Davidson," said University of San Diego history professor Iris Engstrand.

But as other observers and activists on the local scene say, the old model of political or business leadership telling us what to do may not work in the age of Twitter, Google and Soylent.

San Diego Past, N3



Bill Davidson, 79, lived with his grandfather at the Hotel del Coronado while attending high school in the 1940s and has retained many family photos and records. Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune

PAST

CONTINUED FROM H1

A century ago, visionary helped revitalize city

For insight into the man, Bill Davidson, 79, a former Central Valley pistachio grower and current resident of Temecula, shared an extraordinary artifact — phonograph recordings from the 1948 event, when his grandfather was hailed as San Diego's "first citizen."

"I have been credited with doing a great many things for San Diego," the elder Davidson said in response to the many accolades and tributes to him on that occasion, "but I want to assure you, as I've said many, many times, that one man cannot do these things alone. They've only been accomplished by the support, (with the) cooperation, of the people of San Diego."

Still, it took gumption and leadership qualities to ask for help from San Diego's all-purpose tycoon at the time, John D. Spreckels was the Man — owner of the Hotel del Coronado, *The San Diego Union* and *Evening Tribune*, the local streetcar system and many acres of real estate and builder of the San Diego & Arizona Railroad. "We told him we were going out for a million dollars in public subscription for the fair," Davidson told his audience.

"Mr. Spreckels said, 'Is that not a pretty large order for a city of 35,000?' We said, 'Of course it is, but it's a great thing for the city, it will advertise the city, it will develop our great park.'"

"Mr. Spreckels said, 'How much do you want me to go down for?' We said, 'Unless you go down for 10 percent or \$100,000, it is useless for us to make our start.' Mr. Spreckels said, 'All right, I'll go down for \$100,000 and start your subscription list, and I'd like to add that if you get up against it, when you get to your last \$100,000, come in and see me.' That was the type of man we had in San Diego, to support us in our various enterprises in the city of San Diego." Spreckels later donated the Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

Today, tycoons are in short supply, as San Diego's old fam-



G. Aubrey Davidson (1868-1957) served as president of the Panama-California Exposition in 1915-16 in Balboa Park and chairman of the 1935 California Pacific International Exposition in 1935-36, while holding down his day job as a banker. Davidson family photo

lies have dispersed their wealth and the newly rich act the part of "lifestyle millionaires," as Judy Forrester put it. She is president of the LEAD San Diego organization that trains would-be leaders to work effectively in the nonprofit world.

"I see a lot of people who devote time and a tremendous amount of talent," Forrester said. "What we don't have enough are people who devote resources to the region on top of it."

Mary Wolshok, associate chancellor for public programs at the University of California San Diego, said she remains impressed by the imagination of Davidson's generation, which led to the creation of UCSD, the Salk Institute and the Torrey Pines science park — the foundations of much of San Diego's high-tech and biomedical sectors.

"There are many different centers of leadership, but our dilemma is that leadership tends to be sector-specific," Wolshok said. "We live in a new economy, and in a funny way we're still figuring out how to engage our leaders in civic issues."

Ben Haddad, 52, this year's chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, a title equivalent to Davidson's in 1909, disagreed with Wolshok, saying his board members willingly work on civic matters outside their businesses and personal interests.

"We may disagree on details,

on what's got to get built or not built," Haddad said, "but deep down, most folks want to leave the place better than they found it."

One of those is Kevin Harris, 37, a member of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp.'s NextGen Committee, which hopes to engage young business leaders in civic issues.

"We're starting to look at San Diego, how it is today, what will it be like in 20 to 30 years from today, what kind of city will it be when our kids grow into it," Harris said.

Some weeks ago, CEOs for Cities, a Chicago-based group of business and civic leaders, held its annual meeting in San Diego. Chicago's powerful mayor, Richard Daley, son of an even more powerful mayor, was there, but he is not necessarily the model for San Diego or any other place, said CEOs' president, Carol Coletta. "There are two models, and both work — top down and bottom up," she said.

But a third model is developing, she said: "For the most part, younger people tend to favor networks and older people favor institutions." Once the ad hoc network has completed a task, it disbands and a new network reforms to tackle something else.

Still, there is always a need for people like G. Aubrey Da-

vidson, who spent decades on boards and commissions, never turning down a request for help, according to his grandson.

"He was a very efficient guy — he knew how to manage his time," said Bill Davidson, who lived with his grandparents while attending Coronado High School in the 1940s.

But the elder Davidson was not stuck in the past, and in his 1948 speech he recalled San Diego's shift from small town to big city. Priorities were broadening from business development to community beautification, and he welcomed the shift.

"At one time we had much controversy over the question of 'smokestacks' and 'geraniums,'" he said. "Well I am strong for smokestacks. I made many trips east in the interest of various activities — steel plants and cotton mills and shoe facto-

COMMITTEE OF 100 AWARDS LUNCHEON

Noon, Friday, Balboa Park Club, 2150 Pan-American Road West Awards: Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Award (named for the 1915 Expo architect) to G. Aubrey Davidson, and Gertrude Gilbert Award (named for the Expo music program director) to architects Milford Wayne Donaldson and David Marshall.

Speakers: Romy Wylie, author of "Bertram Goodhue: His Life and Residential Architecture"

Information: c100.org

Online: To hear G. Aubrey Davidson's speech in 1948, read a transcript and learn more about his life, go to uniontrib.com/more/davidson

ries and a little of everything. "But today, in the face of our accomplishments in San Diego,

I am an out-and-out believer in geraniums. There's so much we could do in the way of beautification."

Fifteen years after he died at the age of 89, "America's Finest City" became San Diego's official slogan (in response to the loss of the 1972 Republican National Convention to Miami Beach).

The challenge of today's generation is to try to make that boastful claim a reality.

Smokestacks and Geraniums is an occasional look at the growth and development issues as they relate to historic trends in San Diego. The name is derived from a 1917 San Diego mayoral campaign pitting quick-fix forces against advocates of long-term planning.

Roger M. Showley: (619) 293-1286; roger.showley@uniontrib.com

► PERSPECTIVE

CONTINUED FROM 23

of the gallery is to showcase printmaking. But this is not an exhibition for specialists or academics. For anyone even casually interested in art that appears destined to outlast our era, this is a captivating display.

LITERALLY LUMINOUS

Alison Wiese borrows from other art in "Vista," her exhibition at Seminal Projects. But in her case, the lifts are literal. She actually uses versions of works by Robert Wood, a mid-20th-century landscape painter.

Wiese, an artist on the faculty at the University of San Diego, has wired up these pictures, connecting them to small battery packs and installing little lights in the surface of each. One little orb flickers at the top of a mountain peak; others appear above the horizon line in a seascape. Some even appear among woods in a Wood picture.

The Wood images are kitschy, which makes them easy to spoof. But she does so in such a lighthearted way that



A glowing orb contains lights that flicker among the hills of one of the framed pictures in Alison's show. *Seminal Projects*

you feel as though wit wins out. It's conceptual work with a light touch.

Then, to complete her little visual essay on landscape art, Wiese has concocted a tidy row of small plaster sculptures of odd-shaped mountains. All are in white and in a reversal of expectations, they miniaturize something we tend to stereotype as a symbol of grandeur.

Robert L. Pincus: (619) 293-1831; robertpincus@uniontrib.com

FRONT PAGES

Science Meets Conscience

EXPERTS PREDICT ROBOTS will become more and more a part of our lives in the near future, tending to the sick and elderly, doing much of our work and even providing us pleasure. With their infinite compliance, subservience and patience, will we someday prefer their company to that of other humans? That's precisely the kind of dialogue envisioned by Lawrence H. Hinman, USD philosophy professor, and San Diego's Center for Ethics in Science and Technology, founded by a group of local university professors to focus public attention on compelling ethical issues in science.

But rather than impose a subjective idea of "proper" ethics on a given issue, the Center for Ethics fosters

debate about matters of importance—including stem-cell research and performance-enhancing drugs in sports—to determine "what the questions are—what people should be thinking about," says Dr. Michael Kalichman, a neuropathologist at UCSD and an executive member of the center.

Kalichman says one of the center's greater achievements was initiating substantial dialogue about stem-cell research—after which several participants went on to publish articles in noted science journals. The center, which marks its fifth anniversary in May, hosts a monthly science and ethics forum, Exploring Ethics, at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, in addition to public lectures, stakeholder events and focus groups around San Diego.

"Our biggest goal is to promote better science in the public interest," says Kalichman. "That's going to be supported by arming people with a better understanding of science, and arming scientists with a better consideration of where the ethical challenges are."

More information: ethicscenter.net.

—ADAM ELDER



Bishop Cordileone officially installed as fourth bishop of Oakland

By Angela Hill
Oakland Tribune

Posted: 05/05/2009 04:50:59 PM PDT

Updated: 05/06/2009 08:37:35 AM PDT

OAKLAND — So far, he's getting rave reviews.

Bishop Salvatore Cordileone was greeted with smiles, warm wishes and occasional tears of joy from East Bay Catholics at the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Tuesday during his official rite of installation as the Diocese of Oakland's fourth bishop.

"He's wonderful. For me, he is very holy. Very talented. Cheerful. Smart," said Elsa Vega of St. Anthony parish in Oakley. "And he's Italian. I love Italians. And he's young for a bishop, so he can relate to younger people."

Cordileone, 52, formerly auxiliary bishop of San Diego, was appointed to Oakland in March by Pope Benedict XVI to replace Bishop Allen Vigneron, who was appointed archbishop of Detroit.

Considered a theological conservative, Cordileone will serve as spiritual leader for the roughly 500,000 Catholics in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, an increasingly diverse diocese in which Mass is celebrated in 17 languages, such as Tagalog and Vietnamese. Many parishioners are pleased that Cordileone is fluent in Spanish. He is scheduled to celebrate the cathedral's Spanish-language Mass at 2 p.m. Sunday, Mother's Day.

In the ancient installation ceremony performed in this modern cathedral that opened in the fall, Cordileone, in golden robes and headpiece, knocked three times on the doors of the cathedral with his staff, the sharp sounds silencing the overflow crowd in the 1,300-seat sanctuary. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read the papal letter announcing Cordileone's appointment, then seated him in the formal chair, the cathedra, as bishop.

In his homily, citing some of the violent episodes that have plagued Oakland in recent months, Cordileone said, "Christ is the answer. We are called to know him better and make him better known. And here in Oakland, we have a plan to do exactly that."

He spoke of a five-year pastoral plan for the diocese, drafted by Vigneron and the Diocesan Pastoral Council, with goals of sacramental renewal, pastoral leadership and increased youth participation.

"I really like the action plans," Cordileone said. "I like action. It translates ideas into reality. I look forward to working with all of you, priests and priestly people of Oakland, to implement this plan for realizing the mission of the church in this diocese."

Cordileone was born in San Diego. He entered the seminary there in 1975, received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of San Diego in 1978, and went on to study theology in Rome at The Pontifical North American College. He received a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1981.

He was ordained as a priest in 1982 and received a doctoral degree in canon law from Gregorian University in 1989. After returning to San Diego, he held various diocesan positions and from 1991 to

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1995 served as pastor at a parish in Calexico, which is about 120 miles east of San Diego. He then returned to Rome, serving the next seven years as an assistant at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, the Vatican's highest judicial court. In 2002, Pope John Paul II appointed him as auxiliary bishop in San Diego.

Cordileone is a member of the Catholic Bishops Conference task force in the United States on cultural diversity in the church.

Dee Keltner, a docent at the cathedral and parishioner of St. Joseph's in Alameda, couldn't stop praising her new bishop.

"We're very excited," she said. "We've heard a lot of wonderful things from the parishes in San Diego. Bishop Vigneron was wonderful. And now we can't wait to get to know (Cordileone) and see what his youth and enthusiasm will bring to us."

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D. Ross Cameron/Staff

Bishop Salvatore Cordileone knocks on the front door of the Cathedral of Christ the Light on Tuesday as part of the ancient installation ceremony in Oakland.

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Jeanine Collins (second from right) at the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung

Discussion on the First 100 Days of the New Administration **May 7, 2009**. Public Affairs Officer Jeanine Collins participated in a May 7 panel discussion on the "The New U.S. Administration", hosted by the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung and Karl-Hermann-Flach-Stiftung. FDP Bundestag parliamentarian and foreign policy expert Dr. Werner Hoyer, Professor Michael R. Pfau of the University of San Diego, FAZ Washington correspondent Matthias Rüb, participated in this panel discussion and a prior similar discussion in Hamburg. Questions, during the lively 2 hour discussion before a near-capacity audience, ranged from the financial crisis to the Mid-East peace process.

This page printed from:
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SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 16, 2009



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Contact: (619) 260 - 4706

<http://home.sandiego.edu/~lmcgrath/mathcamp>



Diversionsary Closes Its Season With Biting Comedy THE LITTLE DOG LAUGHED, Previews Begin 5/7

[Back to the Article](#)

by BWV News Desk



Diversionsary Theatre's sixth and final production of the 2008-2009 season is the biting contemporary comedy *The Little Dog Laughed* by Douglas Carter Beane.

Directed by Robert Barry Fleming, this play takes a look at the scandalous world of Hollywood celebrities. Players in this fast-

paced and hilarious farce include a spin-doctor agent, a rising movie star, a sexy "rent-boy" and his naïve and needy girlfriend. With photographers itching to catch the latest in celebrity gossip, a compromising photo can make or break your career. *The Little Dog Laughed* asks the question, "is there an escape from Hollywood's glass closet or is it better to just stay locked in from the inside?"

The Little Dog Laughed was nominated for a 2007 Best Play Tony Award and [Julie White](#) won the Best Actress Tony Award for her role as the Hollywood agent.

Douglas Carter Beane's stage credits include *Xanadu*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, and *Dancing in the Dark* among others. Beane also provided the script for *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar*. He is a founding member of [Drama Dept.](#) and member of the Dramatist Guild.

Fleming won a 2008 [Craig Noel](#) Award for Outstanding Featured Performance by a Male in a Musical for his performance in *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the San Diego Rep. He is Director of the Theatre Arts Program at the [University of San Diego](#). The cast features Karson St. John as the agent, Brian Mackey as the movie star, Bryan Bertone as the rent boy, and Kelly Iverson as the girlfriend. *The Little Dog Laughed* contains adult content and brief nudity.

Started in 1986, the mission of Diversionsary Theatre is to produce plays with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender themes that portray characters in their complexity and diversity both historically and contemporarily.

The Little Dog Laughed will preview on May 7 and 8, and open on Saturday, May 9 and run through Sunday, May 31. Performance times are: Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday & Saturday at 8:00pm and Sunday at 2:00 & 7:00pm, with an additional performance on Monday, May 18 at 7:30pm. Single tickets, priced \$29-\$33 with discounts for seniors, students and military are now on sale. Food for the opening night party provided by The Mission Restaurant. For information, call the Diversionsary box office at 619.220.0097 or log on to www.diversionsary.org.

Financial support for Diversionsary Theatre is provided in part by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.



SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

May 1, 2009



THEATER: EXPLORATION

University of San Diego graduate Heather Raffo returns to USD Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Kroc Institute for Peace to present "The Sounds of Desire," based on her play "9 Parts of Desire," with musician Amir El Saffar. Visit: sandiego.edu

Weekend ^{currents}

SAN DIEGO READER

May 7, 2009

CALENDAR

THEATER LISTINGS

Theater listings and commentary are by Jeff Smith. Information is accurate according to material given us, but it is always wise to phone the theater for any last-minute changes and to inquire about ticket availability. Many theaters offer discounts to students, senior citizens, and the military. Ask for the box office.

Anon (through 5)
USD Theatre presents Naomi Tizuka's drama about a young refugee named Anon. In an adapta-

tion of Homer's *Odyssey*, Anon navigates "the chaotic landscape of the United States."

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, 6998 ALCALA PARK, USD. 619-260-4600. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M.

Charley's Aunt

Grossmont College concludes its season with Brandon Thomas's durable farce about Charley, his wealthy aunt from Brazil, his girlfriend, and his school chum who disguises himself as said-same aunt. Henry J. Jordan directed. STAGEHOUSE THEATRE, 8800 GROSSMONT COLLEGE DRIVE, EL CAJON. 619-644-7234. WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THURSDAYS, 7:30 P.M. FRIDAYS, 7:30 P.M. SATURDAYS, 2 P.M. SATURDAYS, 7:30 P.M. THROUGH MAY 16.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 2, 2009

RELIGION CALENDAR

SAN DIEGO

Festival of Ridván The Bahá'í community of San Diego will celebrate the annual Festival of Ridván at 11 a.m. today in Hilltop Park, 9711 Oviedo Way, Gazebo No. 4. Information: (858) 274-0178.

Children's concert Ascension Lutheran Church, 5106 Zion Ave., offers "Sounds of Ascension," a concert by the San Diego Children's Choir, at 4 p.m. tomorrow. Refreshments will follow. Information: (619) 582-2636.

Spring concert The San Diego Festival Chorus and Orchestra will hold its annual spring concert at 3 p.m. tomorrow at College Avenue Baptist Church, 4747 College Ave. Advance sales: seniors and students \$15, children \$5, military in uniform free. Information: (619) 670-3588.

Forum The Ecumenical Council of San Diego County hosts "Breaking Down the Walls of Immigration" 4 to 5:30 p.m. tomorrow at First United Methodist Church, Linder Hall, 2111 Camino Del Rio S., Mission Valley. Refreshments will follow. Information: Dr. Richard Freeman at (619) 422-9263 or the Ecumenical Council at (619) 238-0649.

Festival United Jewish Federation presents the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Festival at the San Diego Jewish Academy, 11860 Carmel Creek Road, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow. Free. Information: Israel Center (858) 571-3444.

Keynote lecture The University of San Diego's Center for Christian Spirituality, 5998 Alcalá Park, will hold the lecture "The Devout Life in Modern Dress: Lay Spirituality in a Contemporary World" at 7:30 p.m. Monday. Speaker is Creighton University theology professor Wendy Wright. Fee is \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. Students are free with ID. Information: sandiego.edu/ccs.

SAN DIEGO READER

May 21, 2009

CALENDAR

CLASSICAL MUSIC

"Le Grand Orgue" Alison Luedecke performs selections from organists "of the great Parisian churches...on the pristine 1931 Austin organ" of Saint Joseph's. Listen for works by Dubois, Langlais, Tournemire, Duruflé, Dupré, and Vierne. 858-997-8636. Sunday, May 24, 3pm; free. Saint Joseph's Cathedral, 1535 Third Avenue. (DOWNTOWN)

"Solo Time" MiraCosta College's North Coast Symphony Orchestra and local musicians showcase their talents. Soloists include clarinetist Leland Lallier, who will play Finzi's "Five Bagatelles"; and musicians Kathryn Ringrose and Beth Ward, who will team up with other performers on "Concerto in B Flat for Three Oboes, Three Violins, and Continuo." Orchestra performs "Overture to Semiramide" by Rossini, Mendelssohn's "Symphony No. 3 (Scotch)." Tickets: 760-795-6815. Saturday, May 23, 7:30pm; Sunday, May 24, 2pm; \$8-\$10. MiraCosta College Theatre, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Chamber Music at the Library Piano trio members Nanae Green (piano), Sarah Paik (cello), and Naomi Leslie (violin) play works by Smetana, Chopin, Stravinsky, Kreisler and J.S. Bach. 858-552-1657. Saturday, May 23, 2pm; free. La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Avenue. (LA JOLLA)

Honors Recital Undergraduate pianist Karen Chow presents honors recital, performing classical works by Mozart, Scarlatti, Chopin, Beethoven, Debussy, and Ginastera. 858-534-3229. Friday, May 22, 8pm; free. Mandeville Recital Hall at UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Organ Concert Civic organist Carol Williams performs. 619-702-8138. Sunday, May 24, 2pm; free. Spreckels Organ Pavilion, 2211 Pan American Road. (BALBOA PARK)

Season Finale Jacobs' Masterworks series concludes when San Diego Symphony, conductor Jahja Ling, and pianist Jon Kimura Parker perform Gershwin's "Piano

Concert in F" described as a "jazz/blues-influenced follow-up" to "Rhapsody in Blue." Also on tap: "Remembering Gatsby" by John Harbison, Rachmaninoff's "Symphony No. 2." 619-235-0804. Friday, May 22, 8pm; Saturday, May 23, 8pm; Sunday, May 24, 2pm; \$20-\$95. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

Spring Fest Spring showcase offers "opportunity to witness exciting and innovative performances by UCSD's extremely gifted music graduate composers and performers." 858-534-3229. Thursday, May 21, 8pm; Friday, May 22, 8pm; free. Conrad Prebys Music Center at UCSD, Russell Lane at Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Symphony Exposed Find out how Sergei Rachmaninoff got his mojo back after the failure of his first symphony when San Diego Symphony, maestro Jahja Ling, and host Nuvi Mehta present

Rachmaninoff's "Symphony No. 2." 619-235-0804. Thursday, May 21, 7:30pm; \$15-\$62. Copley Symphony Hall, 750 B Street. (DOWNTOWN)

The Evolution of the Violin Violinist Jennifer Lynn traces violin's changes, from baroque to classical to modern, using a baroque violin, classical violin, and five-string electric violin with an amp and pedals. She will play selections from each period. Last year Lynn performed with Foo Fighters at Grammy Awards and Rock Star Supernova at Greek Theatre, 858-552-1668. Wednesday, May 27, 7pm; free. Carmel Valley Library, 3919 Townsgate Drive. (CARMEL VALLEY)

Trombone Time Timothy Smith (trombone) and Tatiana Mann (piano) plan recital in French Parlor of Founders Hall. 619-260-4171. Wednesday, May 27, 7:30pm; free. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

SAN DIEGO CITY BEAT

May 13, 2009

MUSIC

***EROLICA** at several locations around San Diego. Conductor Jung-Ho Pak leads the SD Chamber Orchestra through Beethoven's 3rd symphony. See website for show locations. At 7 p.m. **Wednesday, May 13** through **Friday, May 15**. \$35. www.sdco.org

***RED FISH BLUE FISH** at Mandeville Auditorium, UCSD, La Jolla. The UCSD percussion ensemble performs works by Cage and Xenakis. At 8 p.m. **Wednesday, May 13**. 858-534-TIXS. \$10. music.ucsd.edu

***JANE BUNNETT AND SPIRITS OF HAVANA** at Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. The six-piece Latin Jazz ensemble performs selections from their two Grammy-nominated CDs and more. At 8 p.m. **Wednesday, May 13**. 858-454-5872. \$30. www.ljathenaeum.org

RAMI KLEINSTEIN at David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. The renowned Israeli singer/songwriter performs his show "Kleinstein & The Piano." At 8 p.m. **Thursday, May 14**. 858-362-1348. \$45. ljco.org

MADAMA BUTTERFLY at San Diego Civic Center Theater, 1100 Third Ave., Downtown. The San Diego Opera performs Puccini's work about a relationship between a young geisha and a U.S. Naval officer. At 8 p.m. **Friday, May 15**, 2 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**, and 7 p.m. **Wednesday, May 20**. 619-533-7000. \$29. www.sdogopera.com

ASIA at Borders Downtown, 668 Sixth Ave., Downtown. That's right, the Polish pop singer is back to perform a free concert. At 7 p.m. **Friday, May 15**. 619-702-4200. www.bordersstores.com

TRIBUTE TO PEREZ AND DESI at Mira Costa College Theatre, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside. The Miracosta Latin Jazz Orchestra performs music by Perez Prado and Desi Arnaz. At 7 p.m. **Friday, May 15**, and **Saturday, May 16**. 760-754-9686. \$15. www.miracosta.edu/events

NICHOLAS PAYTON QUINTET at Birch North Park Theater, 2891 University Ave., North Park. The award-winning jazz trumpeter performs with his five-piece ensemble. At 8 p.m. **Saturday, May 16**. 619-239-8836. \$36. www.lajolliamusicsociety.org

***FESTIVAL OF NEW MUSIC** at the Conrad Prebys Music Center, UCSD campus. Graduate composers and performers perform a series of avant-garde concerts to open the state-of-the-art music center. See website for full schedule and details. From **Saturday, May 16** to **Sunday, May 23**. 858-534-2230. music.ucsd.edu

COASTAL COMMUNITIES CONCERT BAND at Carlsbad Community Church, 3175 Harding St., Carlsbad. The group performs their spring concert featuring clarinet soloist Robert Spring. At 2 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. \$15. www.cccbband.com

WATERFRONT SUMMER CONCERTS at Seaport Village. This series of free performances by a diverse collection of acts takes place weekly at Seaport Village. This week: Blue Rockit. From 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. www.seaportvillage.com

***YO-YO MA** at Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave., Downtown. The world's most famous cellist performs a special solo concert, capping off the 40th anniversary season of the La Jolla Music Society. At 8 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. 619-570-1100. \$25. www.lajolliamusicsociety.org

OPERATIC DELIGHTS at California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido. The SD Chamber Orchestra performs a

selection of works from the most famous operas ever written. At 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. 800-988-4253. \$22. www.artocenter.org

HOLLACE JONES AND GEOFFREY GRAHAM at All Souls Episcopal Church, 1475 Catalina Blvd., Point Loma. Jones and Graham perform the 24th anniversary concert of SD's only Baroque pipe organ. At 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. \$5.

GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK SHOW at Musicians Union Hall, 1717 Morena Blvd., Linda Vista. Vocalist Jan Hammer and the Jay Berman Trio are featured at this jazz concert and dance performance. From 2 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. \$12. www.jazz4u.org

MIRACOSTA GUITAR ORCHESTRA at Mira Costa College Theatre, 1 Barnard Drive, Oceanside. Director Eric Foster leads the orchestra through a variety of musical styles to celebrate its 20th anniversary. At 2 p.m. **Sunday, May 17**. 760-754-9686. \$10. www.miracosta.edu/events

***USD ELECTRONIC MUSIC** at the David & Dorothea Garfield Theatre, Camino Hall, USD campus. Students in the university's cutting-edge Digital Audio Composition course perform works completed during the year. At 2 p.m. **Monday, May 18**. 619-260-4681. www.sandiego.edu

ACOUSTIC EVENINGS at Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. Catch an evening of guitar based rock and Americana featuring Jason Burleson, Eve Sells and Jack Tempchin (who penned the Eagles' hit "Peaceful Easy Feeling"). At 7 p.m. **Monday, May 18**. 858-454-5872. www.ljathenaeum.org

ART OF ELAN: MYRIAD TRIO at San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park. Three main players from the San Diego Symphony - flutist Demarre McGill, violist Che-yen Chen and harpist Julie Ann Smith - perform works inspired by the art of Robert Delaunay. At 7 p.m. **Tuesday, May 19**. 619-232-7991. \$25. www.artofelan.org

SAN DIEGO CITY BEAT

May 6, 2009

MUSIC

★VIGILUCCI'S JAZZ AT THE MUSEUM at Oceanside Museum of Art, 704 Pier View Way, Oceanside. A concert by local jazz artists The David Patrone Quartet, preceded by a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. The museum's exhibitions *Lowbrow Art* and *Institutional Wellbeing* will be open for viewing prior to the show. From 7 to 9 p.m. **Thursday, May 7** 760-721-2787. \$15, www.opa-online.org.

SDSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA at Smith Recital Hall, SDSU. Matthew Rowe leads the ensemble through its first concert since taking over direction of the group. Features works by Mussorgsky, Honegger, Chopin and Tomasi. At 7 p.m. **Thursday, May 7**. \$8, www.music.sdsu.edu.

★ENGLAND'S ELGAR at Central Library, 820 E St., Downtown. Director Jahja Ling leads the ensemble through pieces by English composer Edward Elgar. At 8 p.m. **Friday, May 8** and 2 p.m. **Sunday, May 10**. 619-238-5800. \$15, www.sandiegolibrary.org.

USD CONCERT at Shiley Theatre, Camino Hall, USD campus. Director Edwin L. Basilio leads the group through a program of patriotic American works. At 8 p.m. **Friday, May 8**, and 2 p.m. **Sunday, May 10**. 619-260-4681, www.sandiego.edu.

MADAMA BUTTERFLY at San Diego Civic Center Theater, 1100 Third Ave., Downtown. The San Diego Opera performs Puccini's work about a relationship between a young geisha and a U.S. Naval officer. At 7 p.m. **Saturday, May 9** to **Tuesday, May 12** 619-533-7000. \$29, www.sdogera.com.

CAN YOU FEEL ME NOW at Sews and Shows, 7860 Golden Ave., Lemon Grove. This showcase for local hip-hop musicians, spoken word artists, vocalists and dancers features performances by Lady Truth, H-Monee, Stacey Lee, RedRum and more. From 7 to 9 p.m. **Saturday, May 9**. \$5.

SD CHORAL ARTS ENSEMBLE at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 4321 Eastgate Mall, Sorrento Valley. William J. Eichorn leads the group through pieces by P.D.Q. Bach and Ken Medema. At 8 p.m. **Saturday, May 9**. \$10, www.sdcae.com.

CARLOS OLMEDA at Swedenborg Hall, 1531 Tyler Ave., Hillcrest. The SoCal singer/songwriter performs an intimate concert. At 8 p.m. **Saturday, May 9**. \$12, www.comedyuc.com.

JUNG TRIO at Central Library, 820 E St., Downtown. String ensemble and sisters Ellen, Jennie and Julie Jung perform a free afternoon concert. At 2 p.m. **Sunday, May 10**. 619-238-5800, www.sandiegolibrary.org.

IAN TORDELLA at Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. The jazz musician performs a free afternoon show as part of the Athenaeum's Mini-Concert series. At noon, **Monday, May 11**. 858-454-5872, www.ljathenaeum.org.

★EROICA at various locations. Conductor Jung-Ho Pak leads the SD Chamber Orchestra through Beethoven's 3rd symphony. See website for show locations. At 7 p.m. **Monday, May 11** to **Friday, May 15**. \$35, www.sdco.org.

SAN DIEGO READER

May 7, 2009

CALENDAR

USD Choral Concerts University of San Diego Concert Choir and Choral Scholars present programs of American patriotic selections as well as a series of American Negro spirituals. In addition, Choral Scholars perform literature presented during their concert tour of France. 619-260-4171. Friday, May 8, 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m.; \$5-\$10. Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

SAN DIEGO READER

May 7, 2009

CALENDAR

CLASSICAL

Student Performance Recital

USD music students present selections from their semester repertoire. 619-260-4171. Free. Shiley Theatre at University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park), 12:15 p.m., Thursday, May 7. (UNDA VISTA)

Small Ensemble Concert

Recital by members of San Diego Youth Symphony. Classical favorites performed by Symphony Orchestra Octet, Sinfonia Quartet, and Concert Orchestra Quartet. 619-233-3232. Free. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 7 p.m., Thursday, May 7. (LA JOLLA)

How About Honegger? San Diego State University Symphony Orchestra performs works by Musorgsky, Honegger, Chopin, and Tomasi. 619-594-1017. \$10-\$15. Smith Recital Hall at SDSU (5500 Campanile Drive), 7 p.m., Thursday, May 7. (COLLEGE AREA)

Fine Arts Trio Pianist, composer Robert Hart, violinist Julie Park, cellist Janet White perform music of Mozart, de Boismortier, and Hart. Trio will also perform Hart's original musical score for world premiere screening of *Evangeline*, a film interpretation of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's celebrated poem by Annette Cyr. Required reservations: 858-642-8095. Free. Neurosciences Institute (10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive), 7 p.m., Friday, May 8. (LA JOLLA)

"The Lark Ascending" Vaughan Williams's piece played for Jacobs' Masterworks concerts by San Diego Symphony, plus "Symphony No. 1" by Elgar, Franz Krommer's unusual and tuneful "Concerto for Two Clarinets." Reservations: 619-235-0804. \$20-\$93. Copley Symphony Hall (750 B Street), 8 p.m., Friday, May 8; 2 p.m., Sunday, May 10. (DOWNTOWN)

Odeum Guitar Duo Grossmont College Guitar Guild presents performance by Grossmont College guitar instructors Fred Benedetti

and Robert Wetzel in recital hall room 220. 619-644-7299. \$8-\$10. Grossmont College (8800 Grossmont College Drive), 8 p.m., Friday, May 8. (EL CAJON)


"Super Heroes" When the Hutchins Consort performs, "see what it takes to control a megalomaniac composer, watch the antics of this ensemble as they musically duel with the forces of evil." Wow! Program features Botticini's "Super Bassman" bass concerto. 760-753-7376. Free. Encinitas Library (540 Cornish Drive), 10 a.m., Saturday, May 9. (ENCINITAS)

Tragic and Haunting San Diego Opera's 44th season closes with Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*. Cast includes American soprano Patricia Racette (who has made Cio-Cio-San her signature role), Uruguayan tenor Carlo Ventre, American baritone Malcolm MacKenzie, Chinese mezzo-soprano Zhen Cao, Taiwanese tenor Joseph Hu, others. Conductor is Edoardo Müller, director is Garnett Bruce. Performed in Italian with English translations above the stage. Reservations: 619-533-7000. \$28-\$175. San Diego Civic Theatre (1100 Third Avenue), 7 p.m., Saturday, May 9; 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 12. (DOWNTOWN)

School of Business Administration

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 13, 2009



USD students receive top honors in real estate competition

Daily Transcript staff report

SAN DIEGO — A group of students from the University of San Diego recently won the 2009 Argus Software University Challenge.

The competition, which is the industry standard for commercial real estate cash flow projection, transaction analysis

See **USD** on 3B

USD

Continued from Page 1B
and asset valuation, was sponsored by Argus for the first time this year.

The winning team of students was comprised of USD students in the Master of Science in Real Estate Program including Bob Brittingham, Brent Farrell, John Hundley, Bryce Lewis and Sasha Zhang.

Each member of the USD team will receive a \$1,000 check from Argus.

The competition required students to simulate an investment analysis of a commercial real estate property. Each team used Argus software to model

the analysis using the assumptions provided by the competition.

The competition began in February and the winner was announced April 30. The winner was selected by a panel of seven judges comprised of three members of the academic community, three industry professionals and Argus Software's chief executive officer, Mark Kingston.

Other universities competing in the competition included Arizona State University, Baruch College, Brigham Young University, DePaul University, John Hopkins

University, New York University, Texas A&M University, UC Berkeley, University of Colorado, University of Michigan and University of Florida.

USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate offers a Master of Science in real estate, undergraduate minor in real estate, certificate in real estate finance, investments and development, a certificate in land use and sustainable development and several major industry conferences throughout the year.

Source Code: 20090511cyc

DAILY BUSINESS REPORT

May 7, 2009

San Diego Metropolitan

REAL ESTATE STUDENTS MAKE NEWS

A team of Master of Science in Real Estate students from USD has won the 2009 Argus Software University Challenge, a national competition sponsored by Argus software. Students **Bob Brittingham, Brent Farrell, John Hundley, Bryce Lewis** and **Sasha Zhang** took first-place honors and competed against an elite group of highly ranked universities from across the country, including **Arizona State University, Baruch College, Brigham Young University, DePaul University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Texas A&M University, UC Berkeley, University of Colorado, University of Michigan** and **University of Florida**.

Teams were charged with simulating a real-life investment analysis of a commercial real estate property by modeling the provided assumptions in Argus software. The teams also had to submit a paper explaining the results of the analysis. For their efforts, each USD student will receive a check for \$1,000 from Argus.

Trevor Jensen and Norm Miller >> COMMENTARY

5 Things Real Estate Investors Must Know

Historically, real estate has moved in cycles. Downturns are a normal part of a healthy cycle. These are five important points to understand about real estate and where the market is headed.

1. Inflation is coming: Economists generally agree that high rates of inflation come when money supply outpaces the rate of economic growth. The Federal Reserve Statistical Release from March 5 saw the M1 Money supply grow at a seasonally adjusted rate of 27.1 percent. Economic growth, on the other hand, is not growing. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the fourth-quarter real gross domestic product decreased 6.3 percent. Although the U.S. economy is in a deflationary recession, at some point, probably late 2010, the tide will turn and we'll see rapid inflation.

2. Moratoriums delayed the inevitable: Moratoriums were put in place during the end of 2008 on residential properties. Many banks were waiting to see if they would receive bailout money and have realized the money will come with strings attached. They are now proceeding with foreclosure. Markets will see a flood of residential homes likely peak in early 2010. This backlog of inventory will join an already large pipeline.

3. Commercial properties will take a hit: Since 1990, according to the National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries, or NCREIF, commercial properties have seen an average cap rate of 8 percent to 9 percent. (Cap rate equals income divided by value.) During market corrections, cap rates tend to overshoot the average before settling back into the historical equilibrium. Cap rates

could go to 10 percent to 12 percent before settling at 8.5 percent. The higher cap rates climb, the less valuable the assets become.

The new tenant base has all but disappeared. Few tenants are expanding. In addition, property owners are finding it hard to refinance their loans. They are forced to sell at a loss. The commercial-mortgage-backed securities, or CMBS, market bottleneck is severe and will take years to untangle. Rating agencies are clueless. They haven't been able to develop a model to value commercial property assets pools. Banks and life insurance companies are staying away. This leaves a huge hole in the lending pool. Leverage is all but gone. All of these factors add to a downward pressure on commercial assets. With the inherent lag effect in commercial real estate, the problems appear slowly and aren't fixed quickly.

4. Real estate will rebound: According to The Long Cycle in Real Estate paper, published in 1997 by Ronald Kaiser, real estate has followed a rather predictable cycle that, absent from specific anomalies, has lasted 18 years. This downturn was very predictable

and so is the eventual rebound. The market will bottom out, be stagnant for a few years, then begin to have price appreciation slowly, and then grow faster and faster until it overheats again ... and the cycle will repeat. The factors driving all of these occurrences will be different and people will say "this time it's different," but the outcome and the results will be the same.

5. Opportunity of a lifetime: The housing market will recover and people will be kicking themselves for not jumping in. If intimidation is holding you back, hire someone to buy, renovate and manage your portfolio. If you plan on going at it alone, do your research. Be comfortable with inspecting a home and developing a financial analysis. Find a property manager or learn it for yourself. Find contractors to renovate the properties and be ready for the eventual midnight leaks.

Norm Miller is director of academic programs at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego. Trevor Jensen is a graduate of the Burnham master's program.



COUNTERPOINT

Life stable? Then buy

By LOUIS A. GALUPPO | Residential real estate director at the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, writing for the North County Times



Today's market for residential real estate is made up of deals arising from broken loan modifications, short sales, foreclosures, bank owned properties, distressed sellers, receiverships and bankruptcy trustees.

This market is inefficient and chaotic. People want a bargain, and many are willing to wait for several months working through the short sale process. Others are willing to be a part of a frenzied bidding war over a bank-owned house.

Worse, in some way, the

supply of residential property has been artificially constrained during the past months by:

- New state statutes requiring banks to engage in work-out negotiations before foreclosing;
- The federal government requesting a voluntary moratorium on foreclosures;
- Borrowers filing lawsuits and bankruptcies; and
- The promise of a bailout of financially strapped borrowers.

To hope to understand the state of the market, we must try to recognize, comprehend

and analyze new layers and factors never before experienced by the current group of working real estate professionals, experts and academia.

Such factors include: artificially constrained supply; laxer underwriting guidelines; contraction of financial products and markets; new state and federal statutes, regulations and guidelines; record high unemployment levels; and over-leverage of individuals, families and business.

On April 30, the University of San Diego's Alan Gin released the Index of Leading Economic Indicators he compiles for the Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. Gin issued the stark report that "The outlook for the local economy remains strongly negative at this point, with no turnaround in sight."

Regardless, there seem to be tiny points of light flickering in a very black sky.

There has been an increase in the number of sales and a slowing of price declines. Interest rates on 30-year fixed conforming loans remain extremely low — around 5 percent — relative to historical norms. Median income appears to remain comparatively stable, although unemployment is increasing.

Residential units authorized by building permits rebounded after the two worst months ever. The raw data on local consumer confidence were actually up in March, compared with February. Local stock prices ended the first quarter up 3.6 percent, compared with a 13.3 percent drop in the Dow Jones Industrial Average and a 3.1 percent decrease in the NASDAQ Composite Index.

Further, the value of residential real estate in some areas of North San Diego and Southwest Riverside counties has begun to rebound, remain stable or actually increase. Some areas along the coast have experienced very little foreclosure activity or

deep declines in value to date.

Overall, market value will continue to decline, but at a slower pace, except for the periods of time when foreclosures are actually pursued in earnest. Areas experiencing a larger number of job losses may continue to have moderate price decreases. For the foreseeable future, the markets will be mixed, troubled and stressed.

Yet many are saying that we may be nearing the bottom of the residential real estate market for existing homes in San Diego.

So if buyers are looking at homes in a neighborhood and community in a relatively stable older market, and all things are steady in their personal lives, the time to buy may be close. If prospective buyers want to obtain homes in a newer area and their jobs are not stable, they may want to wait for a little while.

If buyers have not purchased anything within the next five years, they will probably wish they had.

Tom Dalton >> COMMENTARY

Lower Standards for CPAs Could Hurt State



Although our state legislators' attention has rightly focused on California's budget crisis these past few months, there is another matter before them that affects our economy.

At issue is whether California CPAs will be restricted to work within California while CPAs in other states will be able to work freely throughout the United States.

This issue is critical not just to CPAs, but also to the businesses and individual taxpayers they advise.

CPAs are vital to California's economy. They interpret tax law and advise business clients on global financial issues.

CPA auditors diligently search for the next Enron — and in doing so protect the wealth and retirement savings of millions of people. Restricting California CPAs' ability to practice restricts California's ability to compete.

California is one of only four states that have not adopted the Uniform Accountancy Act. The UAA sets uniform standards for becoming a CPA across all states. Because California has not yet adopted the UAA, our CPAs are not considered to be "substantially equivalent" with the rest of the nation.

This means that soon, California CPAs will be restricted from providing normal services

such as filing out-of-state tax returns, representing California businesses with out-of-state bankers, auditing the out-of-state business operations of California clients, and even sending business-related e-mails out of state.

To provide these normal services, California CPAs will need to comply with whatever complicated approval process each individual state may impose on CPAs who are licensed in the four states that are not "substantially equivalent."

California already restricts out-of-state CPAs in this way from practice within California.

So why isn't California adopting the UAA? Senate Bill 691 would enact the UAA for California.

However, a small but vocal group of opponents bent on imposing a protectionist barrier between California and the rest of the nation are actively blocking its adoption.

Under the guise of consumer protection, these opponents imply that non-California CPAs are somehow less qualified and less ethical than California CPAs.

Same Standards Nationwide

The truth is, all CPAs nationwide are subject to the same professional standards.

All CPAs must pass the same exam, and adhere to the same principles set by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Soon — under the blessing of the SEC — all CPAs will adhere to the same international prin-

ciples set by the International Accounting Standards Board.

A few relatively minor differences exist from state to state in the requirements for becoming a CPA.

The UAA eliminates these differences and standardizes the educational and experience requirements in each state.

One may argue over exactly how high the bar should be to become a CPA.

The fact is, though, that the rest of the nation has settled on UAA requirements as a reasonable compromise between consumer protection concerns and unreasonable barriers to entry. California's standards are now lower than the national consensus.

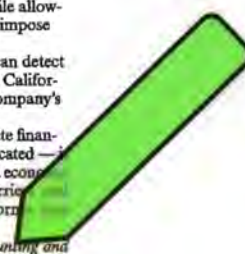
Does it make sense that Californians tolerate lower professional standards while allowing a small special interest group to impose dangerous trade barriers?

Can anyone really argue that we can detect fraud better if we discourage all but California CPAs to examine a California company's books?

The ability to call on the appropriate financial expert — wherever he or she is located — is critical for an effective, well-regulated economy.

It's time to remove artificial barriers to trade restrictions, and bring California into the 21st century.

Tom Dalton is a professor of accounting and taxation at the University of San Diego.



Some signs local slump near bottom

USD data point to first economic uptick in 2 years

By Dean Calbreath
STAFF WRITER

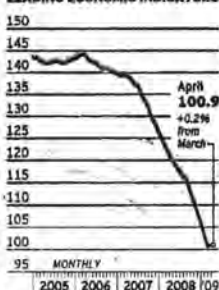
Despite growing unemployment, continuing home foreclosures and a crippling state budget deficit, there are growing signs that the economic slump in San Diego County could be approaching a bottom.

Home builders are returning to the market. Home sales are on the rise. Consumers are feeling more confident. Local companies are doing better in the stock market.

"Things aren't falling as badly as they have been," said Kelly Cunningham, economist at the National University System Institute for Policy Research. "Consumer sentiment is improving. People seem to be realizing the worst of the downturn may have already occurred."

The questions are how real are these "green shoots" of growth — as Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke calls

SAN DIEGO COUNTY'S INDEX OF LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS



SOURCE: University of San Diego
AARON STECKELBERG / Union-Tribune

Mortgage crisis: Foreclosures increasing for borrowers with prime loans and solid credit.

them — and are they strong enough to withstand the continuing drought in employment?

The latest sign that the economic outlook may be improving — or at least that it is not

SEE S.D. economy, A6

► S.D. ECONOMY

CONTINUED FROM A1

U-T poll: Consumer confidence up 75% over just one month

deteriorating as much as it has been — came yesterday from the index of leading economic indicators produced by the Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego.

For the first time in two years, there was an uptick in the index, propelled by improving consumer confidence, higher residential building permits and a jump in local stock prices.

The modest 0.2 percent increase in April put an end to a six-month free fall in the index, which had been plummeting at a rate of 2 percent or more per month since October. The six months had seen the sharpest declines in the index's 32-year databank.

USD economist Alan Gin, who compiles the index, cautioned against reading too much into the April data, because they could represent a one-month blip. Economists typically need at least three months of data to judge if the economy has reached a turning point.

"But this is definitely good news at a time when there hasn't been much about the local economy," Gin said.

If the upward trend continues, the economy could hit bottom toward the end of this year or the first part of 2010, Gin said. But he added that even if that happens, economic growth will likely remain flat for a long time, especially because unemployment probably will remain high.

"We're starting to see good signs, but let's not get too excited about the end of the recession being near," said Gary London, who heads London Realty Advisors in San Diego. "I wouldn't be anxious to report we're out of the woods yet."

Perhaps one of the least-expected signs of improvement is a recent uptick in home-building. In April, 418 building permits were issued in San Diego County. Though down from 521 in March, it's up dramatically from 87 in January and 86 in February, the worst months for local home construction on record.

In contrast, builders were putting up more than 1,500 homes per month at the peak of the construction boom in 2003.

"The March and April numbers are not great, but they are less bad than what we have been doing," Gin said. "These numbers make me think that we'll do better than we did last year, which was the worst year on record."

In another positive sign, sales volume has been creeping back up. Last month, 3,375 homes were sold in the county, a 20 percent increase year-over-year.

Moreover, after two years of decline, prices have begun to stabilize. The median home price in San Diego County remained flat at \$285,000 in both February and March and inched up to \$290,000 in April. But the vast majority of purchases involved either foreclosures or short sales — properties being sold at a loss by lenders.

"People are tiptoeing back into the market, but they're not coming back like they did after the downturns in the

1980s and 1990s," London said. "We're still at the bottom phase, and we don't see another wave of foreclosures or there's any bid-up in prices."

He also noted that the Bankers Association said a new wave of foreclosures may have already begun as workers who have been laid-off or furloughed fail to pay their mortgages.

Nearly 29 percent of foreclosures involve prime loans — not subprimes — compared with 19 percent a year ago. The association said those numbers are growing because of the rise in unemployment.

It seems likely that trend will continue. The unemployment rate, 9.1 percent in San Diego County, is projected to reach double digits within the next few months.

Last month, 33,002 initial claims were filed in San Diego County, compared with 16,964 a year before. One reason for that jump is that the government has relaxed the qualifications for unemployment benefits. Even after taking that into account, Gin estimated that the number of claimants who would have traditionally qualified for benefits has topped 26,000 — the highest number ever.

Most local economists say unemployment could remain high well into next year. "Before businesses start hiring again, they have to see that there are improved business opportunities," Cunningham said.

Despite the weakening job prospects, however, San Diegans are beginning to be more upbeat about the future. Consumer confidence — measured by polling conducted by *The San Diego Union-Tribune* — jumped from an all-time low of 36 points in March to 63.2 points in April. That 75 percent jump was the biggest in the history of the index, although it still remains well below its levels of two years ago, when it was above 100 points.

One possible reason for the jump is that March was a particularly bad month for the economy. Among other things, the stock market hit a 12-year low. The subsequent rebound in the market — including the stock prices for San Diego companies — was another factor that pushed the USD index upward.

"We're in a bear-market rally that could last through summer, although there could be a pullback in the short term," said Bud Leedom, who tracks local stocks in his *California Stock Report*. "San Diego companies tend to outperform good markets and underperform bad markets, so the past month has been good for them."

In general, while San Diegans are still negative about current business opportunities and job prospects, they have become much more optimistic about the future. About 35 percent of poll respondents think that business conditions and job opportunities will be better in six months than they are today. The number that expect conditions to worsen dropped to 24 percent.

In March, 10 percent of respondents expected their household income to improve in six months; in April, that number had increased to 29 percent.

"The key to turning things around is if this increased consumer confidence translates into increased purchases, particularly of bigger-ticket items such as houses and automobiles," Gin said.

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

May 28, 2009

USD Economic Index Rises in April San Diego Business Journal Staff

An index measuring the overall health of the region's economy ~~rose~~ by two tenths of a percent in April, breaking a string of 24 consecutive months ~~of decline~~.

Four of six components in the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators, which was released May 28, showed gains during the month, causing the rise.

But the economics professor who compiles the data said observers need to exercise caution. "Since economists typically look for three consecutive moves in one direction for a leading index to signal a turning point, it remains to be seen if a turnaround is in sight," said USD's Alan Gin.

The four components that increased were building permits, stock prices of local public companies, consumer confidence and the national outlook on the economy. Those gains were offset by big declines in the amount of help wanted ad lineage and new claims for unemployment insurance (measured as a negative).

Gin said a jump in consumer confidence above the rate in March (which declined from the prior month by 3.27 percent) marked the largest one-month turnaround ever recorded by any component in the index, and ended a string of 23 consecutive months of decreases. Consumer confidence increased by 2.78 percent.

The key to turning things around is moving from increased confidence to actual consumer purchases, particularly of big-ticket items like houses and cars, Gin said.

Yet even if a bottom is reached later this year, Gin said the rebound will likely be weak. "Indeed, there could be a significant period where the local economy remains flat after reaching that bottom," he said.

— Mike Allen

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Local Economy Up in April

It's too early to call it a trend, but USD's economic index rose in April, breaking a two-year string of consecutive monthly declines.

The rise came from a "sea change" for local consumer confidence, which logged a record monthly jump for any component in the index. Also helping were gains in building permits, stock prices for local companies and the national economic outlook.

Still, the number of unemployed workers filing for assistance was up sharply -- a negative for the index -- and help wanted ads continued to slump.

Here's USD economist Alan Gin:

While caution needs to be exercised about drawing conclusions from just a single month's worth of data, this is definitely good news at a time when there hasn't been much about the local economy.

In addition to being down every month for two full years, the USD Index had been down 35 out of the last 36 months, and last six months were the six biggest monthly declines on record. Since economists typically look for three consecutive moves in one direction for a leading index to signal a turning point, it remains to be seen if a turnaround is in sight. If it is signaled in the next couple of months, the timing looks to be towards the end of this year or the first part of 2010.

Even if a bottom is reached, it is likely that the rebound from there will be weak. Indeed, there could be a significant period where the local economy remains flat after reaching that bottom.

— KELLY BENNETT

10News.com

Local Economic Index Rises 1st Time In 2 Years

POSTED: 2:43 pm PDT May 28, 2009

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SAN DIEGO -- An index used to gauge the health of San Diego County's economy rose slightly last month, breaking a string of 24 monthly declines, a University of San Diego economist reported Thursday.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County rose .2 percent in April, according to Alan Gin, who compiles the index for USD's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate.

The rise was led by solid gains in building permits, local stock prices and the outlook for the national economy, according to Gin.

However, there was a rise in the number of initial claims for unemployment insurance and a sharp decline in help-wanted advertising, preventing a more dramatic improvement in the index, according to Gin.

"While caution needs to be exercised about drawing conclusions from just a single month's worth of data, this is definitely good news at a time when there hasn't been much about the local economy," Gin's index states.

According to Gin, economists typically look for three consecutive months of economic improvement before signaling a turnaround.

Any improvement in the local economy will be toward the end of the year or the first part of 2010, according to Gin, who added that it's likely the rebound will be "weak" or "remain flat."

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San Diego's Economy Inches Up

By [Erik Anderson](#)

Thursday, May 28, 2009

SAN DIEGO — San Diego's index of leading economic indicators rose last month. It's the first time in two years the index has gained ground. It also ends a six month streak in which the index declined more than 2 percent each month.

University of San Diego economist Alan Gin says the uptick was relatively small at two tenths of a percent. He says consumer confidence helped lead the turnaround.

"It was sharply negative in March," he says. There was a big reversal in terms of local consumer confidence. Local consumers are not necessarily feeling better about the current situation, but their outlook for the future has brightened considerably and so that was very strong and that helped contribute to the rise in the index."

Gin says stronger local stock prices, a jump in building permits and a positive impression of the national economy also helped turn around the numbers. He says he generally wants to see three months of gains before he's ready to predict an end to the recession. Even so, he says there are signs that things could be getting better in late 2009 and early 2010.

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Economic Decline in San Diego Shows Signs of Improvement

Last Update: 5/28 11:36 am

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Local News

Economic Future Of San Diego Region Looking Up

05-29-2009 2:08 AM

(San Diego, CA) – A monthly list of economic indicators might bring a yawn or two ordinarily but there's some encouraging news in one San Diego today. After seeing a string of 24 monthly declines, University of San Diego economist Alan Gin says the index for last month rose. The two-tenths-of-a-percent increase was led by gains in building permits, local stock prices and the national economic outlook. Professor Gin says the index will show more dramatic improvement when initial claims for unemployment insurance fall. He'll be looking for three consecutive months of improvement before announcing a turnaround for the local economy.

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Foreclosures increasing for prime loans

Rate has doubled in the past year

By Emmet Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The mortgage crisis that has shaken the nation's economy is expanding beyond the subprime market to include borrowers with prime loans and solid credit ratings, said a survey released yesterday by the Mortgage Bankers Association.

The rate of foreclosure on prime, fixed-rate mortgages doubled in the past year, said Jay Brinkmann, chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers

Association. Nearly 6 percent of such mortgages were in the foreclosure process or behind by at least one payment at the end of the first quarter.

Among all types of mortgages, the survey showed that a record 12 percent of homeowners had fallen behind on their payments or were going through foreclosure. The report reflects a significant threat to the ailing housing market as well as the overall economy, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

"As long as foreclosures are rising, house prices will decline, which will undermine household wealth," he said. "It will be very difficult for the

economy to gain any traction. A lot more foreclosures are coming."

Widespread layoffs and pay cuts have weakened the ability of many middle-wage households to make their monthly mortgage payments. The expanding mortgage market meltdown began with the failure of highly leveraged subprime loans. Such loans originally were intended for borrowers with blemished credit but fell into common usage.

Tens of thousands of loans were approved in the first half of the decade without regard to income or credit scores. Critics say lenders lowered their underwriting standards as home prices rose beyond the reach of middle-wage earners in order to

prolong the housing boom.

Until recently, many analysts said the people who were losing their homes probably took on too much debt in relation to their income. The new survey reflects a deepening recession, with formerly solvent homeowners struggling to make payments.

University of San Diego economist Alan Gin said San Diego County's high job losses are contributing to the problem locally. The county's unemployment rate is now 9.1 percent.

Dean Baker, an economist with the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, was sur-

SEE Foreclosure, E2

► FORECLOSURE CONTINUED FROM E1

Unemployment in county at 9.1%

prised that the quarterly report showed that 7.51 percent of prime loans in California were past due. An additional 3.48 percent of prime loans, which go to borrowers with high credit ratings, were in foreclosure.

"That is incredible," Baker said. "These are the good ones. These are not people who likely got in over their heads."

Foreclosure activity in San Diego County has been fluctuating in recent months. In April, MDA Data-Quick reported 903 foreclosures in the region, an increase of 23 percent over March but a drop of 36 percent from April 2008. There were 3,371 recorded notices of default in April, a 12 percent decline from the previous month, but a year-over-year gain of 2.2 percent.

Prime, fixed-rate loans, which go to borrowers with good credit, now represent the largest share of new foreclosures nationwide, according to the first-quarter survey.

A year ago, prime, fixed-rate loans equalled about 19 percent of foreclosure starts nationwide,

Brinkmann said. Subprime adjustable-rate mortgage loans totaled 39 percent. In the recent survey, prime loans totaled 29 percent of foreclosure starts and subprime adjustables were down to 27 percent.

About 56 percent of the increase in foreclosures and past-due loans is coming from California, Florida, Arizona and Nevada.

Brinkmann said the delinquency rate for mortgage loans in California was 9.22 percent at the end of the quarter, an increase less than one-tenth of 1 percent from the previous quarter.

No region of the country is immune from the foreclosure problem, as rising unemployment spreads. Zandi said efforts by the Obama Administration to place distressed borrowers in affordable loans has yet to make a dent in the problem.

Economist Christopher Thornberg of Beacon Economics in Los Angeles said the situation isn't surprising, given the large number of bad loans that were made during the housing boom.

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SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 21, 2009

George Chamberlin's Money in the Morning

There actually could be a light at the end of the tunnel. According to the **Conference Board**, its **Index of Leading Economic Indicators** "rose sharply in April, the first increase in seven months, and the strengths among its components exceeded the weaknesses for the first time in one and a half years." It will be interesting to see if the same thing happens here when **USD economics professor Alan Gin** releases his report on local economic indicators, which have been trending lower for years, not months.

May 1, 2009

Economic indicator index for county fell in March

USD economist's forecast negative

By Dean Calbreath
STAFF WRITER

San Diego County's index of leading economic indicators took a nose dive in March, spurred by an increasingly bleak job market, according to a report yesterday by the Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego.

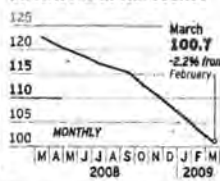
The 2.2 percent decline was one of the largest drops in the index, which dates to 1977.

There were some glimmers of hope beneath the gloom, including an uptick in home construction, more optimism among consumers and a rise in local stock prices.

USD economist Alan Gin, who compiles the index, said it is too early to tell whether the recent upturns are short-lived fluctuations or the beginning of an upward trend.

"We could possibly be enter-

INDEX OF LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATORS IN THE COUNTY



SOURCE: University of San Diego

AARON STECKELBERG / Union-Tribune

ing a situation where things are getting less bad, but we need more data before we can tell for sure," Gin said.

In the meantime, Gin said his forecast for the local economy remains negative.

"Both the national and local economies are caught in a vicious cycle where job losses are reducing incomes, which reduces consumption, auto sales and home sales, which in turn leads to even more job

SEE Economy, E2

► ECONOMY

CONTINUED FROM E1

Data indicate consumers' confidence rising

losses," he said. "An added complication is the impact on the already-stressed financial system as more loans go bad."

The index of leading economic indicators has been on a downward track for three years, mirroring the decline of the local housing market. Over the past six months, it has been declining at a rate of 2 percent or more each month — its largest rate of decline ever.

In March, all the indicators that Gin uses to evaluate the local economy — home building permits, unemployment filings, job listings, consumer confidence, stock prices and the national economic indicators — were pointing down. But digging beneath the data, there were some positive developments.

• Home construction. The USD index uses a three-month average to track residential

"We definitely saw strength in some of the local bellwethers."

BUD LEEDOM, California Stock Report

building permits. Based on that measure, home construction in San Diego County remained sluggish. There were 25 percent fewer permits issued in the first quarter of 2009 than the first quarter of 2008.

But that three-month average includes the two worst months in San Diego history. Only 173 permits were issued in January and February, compared with 722 during the same period of 2008. Home construction rebounded in March with 524 permits issued, compared with 173 in March 2008.

Gin prefers to use the three-month average because it smoothes out temporary blips. "If March was just one month balancing off the previous two months, then the economy still hasn't turned around," he said. "But if it continues, it's a very good situation."

• Consumer confidence. Based on a three-month average, consumer confidence in San Diego County ended March nearly 40 percent lower

than in March 2008, as measured by polling conducted by *The San Diego Union-Tribune*. But once again, the negative data from January and February obscured a 3 percent rise in confidence in March.

• Stock prices. Local stock prices were lower at the end of March than at the beginning, but the real decline occurred during the first half of the month. During the second half of March, stock prices rose steadily and continued their upward rise through April.

"April was a decent month," said Bud Leedom, who tracks local stocks in his California Stock Report. "We definitely saw strength in some of the local bellwethers, like Qualcomm, SAIC and Sempra. And some of the smaller companies are starting to gain some more life. We're not necessarily poised for a full recovery, but a lot of companies are off their lows."

• Employment. There was little good news in the employment figures in March. Initial

claims for unemployment insurance topped 30,000 for the third consecutive month, pushing the local unemployment rate from 8.9 percent in February to 9.3 percent in March.

Help-wanted advertising for local companies, as measured by the Monster Employment Index, is 34 percent lower than last year. Only two industries posted more jobs this March than in March 2008: military and agriculture.

"All of the top 28 U.S. metro markets have seen a steep decline in online recruitment activity over the past year," said Hugo Sellert, Monster's head of economic research. "Although San Diego, which was hit early by the housing crisis, is not seeing as steep a decline on an annual basis as e.g. Los Angeles and Phoenix, it is clear that local employers are still wary about adding staff in times of heightened uncertainty."

• National economy. The national index of Leading Economic Indicators has fallen for three months in a row. The national economy continues to contract, with the advance estimate for first-quarter gross domestic product down 6.1 percent on an annualized basis.

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 1, 2009

'Vicious cycle' quells local economy

Daily Transcript staff report

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego economy continued to sharply decline in March, according to a report tracking key local economic indicators.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County fell by another 2.2 percent in March, the sixth consecutive decline above 2 percent. Comparatively, the index fell by 1.4 percent a year ago.

The last six months have logged the largest declines the index has seen since the index was created.

The largest drop of 2.6 percent was in February.

A steep drop in local help-wanted advertising and consumer confidence, two of the six index components, led March's decline.

The other four components, which examine the number of building permits, unemployment insurance, local stocks and the national economy, were also negative — the seeming reprieves in the housing and stock market were unable to offset losses.

"The outlook for the local economy remains strongly negative at this point with no turnaround in sight," wrote economist Alan Gin, a University of San Diego professor who compiles the index.

He described both the national and local economies as "caught in a vicious cycle," in which job losses reduce income, which reduces consumption and sales, which in turn creates more job loss.

Source Code: 20090430cza

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

May 4, 2009

Thursday, April 30

USD Index Slumps Again: The San Diego area economy worsened in March, and showed no sign that it would improve anytime soon, according to a local economic index.

The March decrease of 2.2 percent in the University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County was the 35th time the index has dropped in the last 36 months. It was also the sixth consecutive monthly decline of more than 2 percent.

All six components of the index fell in March, led by big drops in help wanted

advertising and consumer confidence.

Smaller drops were registered in the number of unemployment insurance claims filed (with increases measured as a negative), the number of building permits issued, stock prices of local firms and the nation's index of economic indicators.

"The outlook for the economy remains strongly negative at this point with no turnaround in sight," said Alan Gin, the USD economics professor who compiles the data. "Both the national and local economies are caught in a vicious cycle where job losses are reducing incomes, which reduce consumption, auto sales and home sales, which in turn, leads to even more job losses."

— Mike Allen

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 1, 2009

Local index points to grim outlook

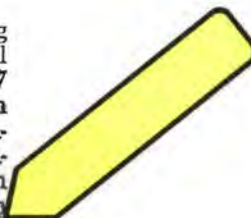
SAN DIEGO — An index of various local economic data fell nearly as sharply in March as in previous months amid bleak measures of consumers' confidence and businesses' hiring activity.

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell 2.2 percent in March to 100.7 after a 2.6 percent fall in February. The index is composed of six types of economic data compiled by Alan Gin, a University of San Diego economist.

The index has fallen in 35 of the 36 months since a peak of 144 in March 2006. The latest six declines have been the steepest in the 32-year history of the index.

The index includes the consumer and hiring components, and components for homebuilding activity, job losses, local stock prices and the national economy's impact.

"The outlook for the local economy remains strongly negative at this point with no turnaround in sight," Gin wrote.



SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 17, 2009

Oz on the block

The Land of Oz doesn't have money, cars or office buildings, but that didn't stop Houston-based Argus Software from inviting 13 college real estate programs to compete in an Oz-oriented contest to produce the best analysis for a development deal.

The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate team beat out heavyweights like the University of California Berkeley, New York University and the University of Michigan in what promises to be an annual competition.

"It was very impressive," said Lynn Clarke, Argus director of global training, of USD's 42-page entry, three times longer than most of the other entries.

Argus sponsored the competition to come up with the value of an office tower downtown in the Emerald City, the capital of Oz, and the best use of undeveloped land on the 4-acre site.

Argus' valuation software, which retails for \$3,950 for single-license users, is a standard commercial real estate tool to evaluate assets, make cash flow projections and analyze the return on investment, Clarke said. She said about 70 college and university real estate programs also use the software, which students can purchase for \$99.

USD's five-student team apparently made full use of the software to come up with its plan

for "Guardian Gateway Center," an 18-story Class A office building and 15-story garage in the Emerald City's financial district, as described in the 23-page proposal presented to students.

Taking inspiration from L. Frank Baum's "Wizard of Oz" and dozens of sequels, the students wrote over the proposal. Argus set up its scenario by saying that a new chief wizard named Henry II began opening up the country to the non-fairy world in the 1990s.

One of his early initiatives was to develop a forest products industry by harvesting lumber from "the lush Haunted Forest." He now was inviting outside investors to take a position in the office project, which he built in 2002.

The students were tasked to provide analysis for "Global Investment Managers," led by "Dorothy," and its "Global Office Opportunity Fund (GOOF)."

The 12 tenants in the office building work "two blocks east of the Grand Palace of Oz, the home of all major government agencies, at the corner of Yellow Brick Boulevard and Ruby Slippers."

They include the Bank of Oz and Trust and WOZZ Broadcasting Co., Witches Brewing Co. and the law firm Haley, Bolger and Lahr LLC — an allusion to three actors in the 1939 MGM Oz movie, Jack Haley, who played the Tin Man, Ray Bolger, the Scarecrow, and

Bert Lahr, the Cowardly Lion.

The USD students, who earned \$1,000 each in winnings, extended the fun by suggesting a fundraising campaign, "Wrestle the Lion for \$5," and blaming Oz's recent housing collapse on "unscrupulous lending practices of the Munchkin Housing Corp., 100 percent wholly owned by Wicked Witch of the WaMu Inc."

But the students did get down to Oz dollars and cents and concluded that the office building was worth \$83.4 million and a second office building would be a wise investment for two acres of excess land next door.

Brent Farrell, 29, one of the winning USD students, said they worked from Feb. 20 to April 17 on the entry and enlisted friends in graphic design fields to help with the presentation.

"It's a nice thing to reference and it's not a bad sales piece," he said.

Also on the team were Bob Brittingham, John Hundley, Bryce Lewis and Sasha Zhang.

Next year, Argus said, the teams are likely to face a challenge related to real estate issues at Harry Potter's Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

— ROGER SHOWLEY



Brent Farrell

Smooth Sailing for Multifamily Lending — For Now

FINANCE Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac remain active despite a restructuring of the two companies on the horizon

BY MANDY JACKSON
CREJ Staff Writer

Multifamily has been good business for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and that is not expected to change, even though a restructuring of the two government-sponsored entities remains on the horizon.

The companies that back \$5.1 trillion in home loans went into conservatorship last year, but reform appears to be far off in the distance as federal officials stay focused on problems in the residential mortgage market and broader economy. Until it has a new plan, the multifamily industry continues to stay afloat with competitive financing from the two GSEs.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac under conservatorship on Sept. 6 so that the regulator could control and oversee them until they are financially sound and solvent, while conducting business as usual.

To facilitate their liquidity, the U.S. Department of the Treasury had planned to buy up to \$100 billion each in preferred stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, purchase their mortgage-backed securities and extend a credit facility to the agencies.

Freddie Mac reported a net loss of \$50.1 billion for 2008 compared to a 2007 loss of \$3.1 billion. The 2008 net loss at Fannie Mae was \$58.7 billion after a \$2.1 billion loss in 2007.

On May 8, Fannie Mae reported a first-quarter 2009 loss of \$23.3 billion, down from a \$25.2 billion loss reported in the previous quarter.

Acting in its capacity as Fannie's conservator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency submitted a request on May 6 for \$19 billion in federal aid from the Treasury Department.

On May 12, Freddie Mac reported a net loss of \$9.9 billion for the first quarter of 2009. The FHFA requested an additional \$13.8 billion from the Treasury Department on Freddie Mac's behalf.

Since the first of this year, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have requested \$79 billion from the U.S. Treasury under the stock purchase plan.

"The administration is utilizing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to assist in the resolution of the single-family mortgage problems that exist," said David Cardwell, vice-president of capital markets and technology at the National Multi Housing Council in Washington, D.C.

Cardwell said the informal discussion of how to restructure the two GSEs is just beginning on Capitol Hill, but it is complicated by the fact that they have become implementers of the policies set out by the Obama Administration.

FHFA's conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is scheduled to end at the end of 2009, but that timeline could be extended to deal with their existing mortgage portfolios as well as broader economic recovery activities. Both companies will need additional capital from the federal government to offset mortgage losses.

"They continue to source mortgage capital for apartment owners," Cardwell said. "Without it, the multifamily industry would be in much worse shape."

Still, GSE multifamily lending has fallen, though less than the decline in all commercial and multifamily lending, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association's most recent originations survey. The dollar volume of multifamily loans by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac decreased 17 percent in the first quarter from fourth-quarter 2008. Overall, originations declined 26 percent for the same quarter.

Lowered Delinquencies

All real estate is being impacted by the economy and property values have declined across the board, including apartments, but the number of defaults remains low for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Between fourth-quarter 2008, the 60-day-plus delinquency rate on multifamily loans held or insured by Fannie Mae was 0.30 percent, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. The delinquency rate on multifamily loans held or insured by Freddie Mac that were 90 days or more past due was 0.01 percent.

Fourth-quarter delinquency rates were much higher for commercial mortgages held in commercial mortgage-backed securities at 1.2 percent and for commercial real estate loans held by banks and thrifts at 1.6 percent. The delinquency rate for commercial mortgages held by life insurance companies was a low 0.07 percent.

Multifamily lending has always been a lower delinquency business for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, so it is unlikely that they will decrease their activity in that area, said Mark Riedy, executive director of the Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego.

Riedy was president, chief operating officer and a director at Fannie Mae in the mid-1980s. He has also been an executive with the Mortgage Bankers Association, the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco and the National Council of Community Bankers.

Riedy said it's politically difficult for the federal government to do anything that will change the structure of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Their roles as stockholder-owned institutions have already changed, but going forward they could be turned into federal government agencies or made into private companies that are so small they aren't "too big to fail." At the moment, those options appear to be in a stalemate.

Riedy said he doesn't know what the best structure would be for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. He said government agency Ginnie Mae, created by Congress in 1968 in a manner similar to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, has done a good job of keeping delinquencies low despite the low downpayments for the home loans that it guarantees.

Ginnie Mae operates under the Department of Housing and Urban Development and backs mortgages made by the Federal Housing Administration and Department of Veteran Affairs.

"On the one hand, you could have a government corporation and then you wouldn't need two [companies] to take on conforming, non-FHA and -VA loans," Riedy said, "but it would be a huge government corporation and governments really haven't been the best to run major private-sector organizations."

On the other hand, the government doesn't want to inhibit the operations of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by splitting them into smaller companies because the mortgage market depends so heavily on them.

"I think they have to continue at least for the next several years to be a major player in the mortgage business," Riedy said. "They should continue to purchase mortgages on a conservative underwriting basis."

There has been some discussion that in five, 10 or 15 years, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac might be broken into smaller regional companies that compete with each other. Riedy said it is likely that there will be a combination of approaches for restructuring the firms.

"The focus now is to get them on sound footing and make their securities marketable — and they

will with government support," he said.

A spokeswoman for the House Financial Services Committee said the committee will hold hearings on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the fall, but right now the committee is focused on mortgage reform and broader regulatory reform.

Since Fannie Mae guarantees \$3.1 trillion in single-family mortgages and Freddie Mac backs \$1.8 trillion in home loans, multifamily is a small part of their business in comparison.

Fannie Mae financed \$35.5 billion in multifamily housing in 2008, through debt financing and bond purchases. Freddie Mac invested \$24 billion in multifamily housing through its whole loan and bond programs, businesses and bought \$14 billion in multifamily bonds.

Jon Reible, Fannie Mae's vice president and western regional manager based in Phoenix for KeyBank, said Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are active nationwide.

A Smaller Piece of the Pie

KeyBank did \$337 million in lending in 2007 through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, representing 14 percent of all multifamily loans. In 2008, the bank did \$1.5 billion in lending through the GSEs — \$650 million through Fannie Mae and \$850 million through Freddie Mac — representing 43 percent of its multifamily lending.

While apartments are performing better in some markets than in others, Reible said the two companies continue to lend in markets with higher vacancy rates and less investment activity, but with more conservative underwriting.

"The activity itself is probably remaining relatively steady," he said. "It's just a smaller pie though and Fannie and Freddie are getting a much larger slice of that pie now."

Apartment buyers who normally seek financing from life insurance companies and other balance sheet lenders are converting to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac borrowers.

"With other capital sources drying up, it's an opportunity to show what Fannie and Freddie can do and it sells very well," Reible said.

Reible said it's tough to compare Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to other multifamily lenders, because there are so few other sources of capital in the marketplace.

"For a stabilized property with a good-quality sponsor, they are the lending source now," he said. "They will lend up to 70 percent to 80 percent of value based on the property and the strength of the borrower."

Interest rates from the two GSEs are 6 percent or lower for fixed-rate financing and 4 percent for floating-rate debt. The vast majority of borrowers are opting for a fixed rate, but some are taking on floating-rate loans so that they have prepayment flexibility.

Most of the deals under consideration by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are for stabilized assets and most are refinance transactions. Apartment acquisitions slowed down a bit, but that business is starting to pick up in strong markets with good borrowers, Reible said.

Bill Rose, managing director in the San Diego office of commercial mortgage brokerage Holaday Fenoglio Fowler LP, said life insurance companies and banks are interested in multifamily transactions in addition to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but the two companies offer the best interest rates and non-recourse financing.

Programs from the Federal Housing Administration and Department of Housing and Urban

MULTIFAMILY

Continued from page 8

Development are best suited to finance acquisition and rehabilitation projects.

"The trouble that Fannie and Freddie has always been on the single-family side," Rose said. "On the multifamily side, their underwriting has been pretty consistent."

Investors in the apartment market have shifted to a long-term hold strategy, but Fannie Mae underwrites in-place rental rates rather than rents projected in future years, according to Heidi McGibben, vice president and head of multifamily production at Fannie Mae, who spoke on April 8 at the Millennium Biltmore in downtown Los Angeles during a multifamily conference hosted by the Cadden Real Estate Economics Forecast from the University of Southern California's Luskin Center for Real Estate.

"The good thing about this cycle is it is taking us back to realistic underwriting of real estate that will take us through the length of a 10-year loan," said Timothy White, president of PNC ARCS, a Fannie Mae-delegated underwriting and servicing lender, at the Cadden Forecast event.

"You have to look forward to an exit strategy and make sure you can refinance it or it can be sold," White said.

CREJ Staff Writer Kasey Winter contributed to this report.

— E-mail MJackson@DailyJournal.com

See MULTIFAMILY, page 9

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• May. 18, 2009

Smooth Sailing for Multifamily Lending - For Now

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac remain active despite a restructuring of the two companies on the horizon

By MANDY JACKSON

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A spokeswoman for the House Financial Services Committee said the committee will hold hearings on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the fall, but right now the committee is focused on mortgage reform and broader regulatory reform.

Since Fannie Mae guarantees \$3.1 trillion in single-family mortgages and Freddie Mac backs \$1.8 trillion in home loans, multifamily is a small part of their business in comparison.

Fannie Mae financed \$35.5 billion in multifamily housing in 2008, through debt financing and bond purchases. Freddie Mac invested \$24 billion in multifamily housing last year through its whole loan and bond guarantee businesses and bought \$1.4 billion in multifamily CMBS.

Jon Reible, senior vice president and western regional manager based in Phoenix for **KeyBank Real Estate Capital**, said Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac remain active nationwide.

A Smaller Piece of the Pie

KeyBank did \$337 million in lending in 2007 through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, representing 14 percent of all multifamily loans. In 2008, the bank did \$1.5 billion in lending through the GSEs - \$650 million through Fannie Mae and \$850 million through Freddie Mac - representing 43 percent of its multifamily lending.

While apartments are performing better in some markets than in others, Reible said the two companies continue to lend in markets with higher vacancy rates and less investment activity, but with more conservative underwriting.

"The activity itself is probably remaining relatively steady," he said. "It's just a smaller pie though and Fannie and Freddie are getting a much larger slice of that pie now."

Apartment buyers who normally seek financing from life insurance companies and other balance sheet lenders are converting to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac borrowers.

"With other capital sources drying up, it's an opportunity to show what Fannie and Freddie can do and it sells very well," Reible said.

Reible said it's tough to compare Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to other multifamily lenders, because there are so few other sources of capital in the marketplace.

"For a stabilized property with a good-quality sponsor, they are the lending source now," he said. "They will lend up to 70 percent to 80 percent of value based on the property and the strength of the borrower."

Interest rates from the two GSEs are 6 percent or lower for fixed-rate financing and 4 percent for floating-rate debt. The vast majority of borrowers are opting for a fixed rate, but some are taking on floating-rate loans so that they have prepayment flexibility.

Most of the deals under consideration by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are for stabilized assets and most are refinance transactions. Apartment acquisitions slowed down a bit, but that business is starting to pick up in strong markets with good borrowers, Reible said.

Bill Rose, managing director in the San Diego office of commercial mortgage brokerage **Holliday Fenoglio Fowler LP**, said life insurance companies and banks are interested in multifamily transactions in addition to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but the two companies offer the best interest rates and non-recourse financing.

Programs from the Federal Housing Administration and Department of Housing and Urban Development are best suited to finance acquisition and rehabilitation projects.

"The trouble that Fannie and Freddie has always been on the single-family side," Rose said. "On the multifamily side, their underwriting has been pretty consistent."

Investors in the apartment market have shifted to a long-term hold strategy, but Fannie Mae underwrites in-place rental rates rather than rents projected in future years, according to Heidi McKibben, vice president and head of multifamily production at Fannie Mae, who spoke on April 8 at the Millennium Biltmore in downtown Los Angeles during a multifamily conference hosted by the **Casden Real Estate Economics Forecast** from the University of Southern California's **Lusk Center for Real Estate**.

"The good thing about this cycle is it is taking us back to realistic underwriting of real estate that will take us through the length of a 10-year loan," said Timothy White, president of **PNC ARCS**, a Fannie Mae-delegated underwriting and servicing lender, at the Casden Forecast event.

"You have to look forward to an exit strategy and make sure you can refinance it or it can be sold," White said.

CREJ Staff Writer Keeley Webster contributed to this report.

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Cold Condos

By Craig D. Rose

The stunning 50 percent plunge in Phoenix's home prices has attracted national attention. By contrast, San Diego

condominium market, which has seen values fall by 55 percent, has suffered in relative silence.

That may be the good news. "This feels like 1991 or 1992," said Gary London, a local real estate analyst. By 1992, London recalled, San Diego was already two years into a real estate downturn. But the market showed no signs of recovery until 1995, he added.

To come back — if that ever happens — experts believe that the local market will have to navigate another surge in foreclosures, which could keep the condo market depressed at least through much of 2010.

Factor in an additional problem for condo sales: regional economist Alan Gin says the condo market now faces competition from the sale of detached homes, which have fallen to affordable levels, at least for those who've managed to keep their jobs.

Gin, a professor of eco-

nomics at the University of San Diego, said that for the condo market to rebound, the detached-housing market must first rebound. But detached homes are unlikely



Pete Cretu

to bounce back without improvement in the job market. Folks getting laid off, or fearing layoffs, won't buy houses.

"The job market is disastrous," said Gin. Local payrolls had 44,000 fewer jobs in March of this year than they

did a year ago, he noted. He said if this pace continues, the balance of the year will see losses in the job market, and except those who are in the defense or health care sectors.

It is encouraging that real estate prices are up, but for a recovery to occur you need job growth," he said.

Consider that the median price of a San Diego County condo peaked at \$400,000 in April 2005, dipped slightly, and then returned to that peak again in March and May of

2006, according to MDA DataQuick, which compiles real estate data.

By March of this year, the median condo price had plunged to \$180,000.

And this decline in prices has continued despite a slight

continued on page 8

the depressed market. In addition, Vantage Pointe recently announced it was returning deposits to some 300 potential buyers because many were unable to satisfy a lender requirement for obtaining loans to close their deals. The requirement stipulated that 70 percent of the units had to be pre-sold in order to qualify for financing.

Harmer nonetheless predicts that unsold downtown inventory — which could reach roughly 1,400 homes in the next few months — could shrink to what he characterized as a normal inventory of about 400 within ten months. That projection counts on maintaining current sales levels and no increase in foreclosure sales. And Harmer's projection could also be upset by a rise in prices that would

continued on page 10

Cold condos

continued from page 8

uptick in sales. Condo sales in the county totaled 888 units in March, the highest in three months. But that's well below the peak levels of more than 1,800 units seen in April and May of 2004.

To take the sunny perspective suggested by those selling real estate, there's lots of room for recovery. In other words, things have tanked so badly in the condo market, it could be near a bottom, boosters suggest.

Nat Bosa of Bosa Development, which has developed many local condo projects and continues to seek buyers for recently completed units, argues that the recent uptick in sales volume is the first positive sign.

"As recently as six months ago, I would have said we were close to a depression, but I think we averted that," Bosa said. "We must be in our sec-

ond or third year of low house-building activity. And a heck of a lot of kids have moved in with their parents. When are they going to say they want their own place?"

"To be honest, I don't know when somebody who wants to buy a house for the first time had a better time to buy than right now."

Bosa said he's confident enough now about prospects for a revival that for the first time in more than two years, he's talking with architects about plans for new developments.

Clearly some buyers are concluding prices are near bottom. For others, condos have simply become affordable for the first time, and they're willing to venture into the market.

That describes Pete Cretu, a 35-year-old information technology analyst. Back in March, Cretu bought a 2-bedroom, 1.5-bathroom condo in the Alta project near Sixth Avenue and Market Street for \$455,000. He is quick to note that his condo is similar to units that sold in the same building just one year earlier

for \$620,000.

Cretu said he figured the cost had fallen sufficiently that it made sense for him to stop renting and buy his first home. Plus Cretu said he discovered he could take advantage of federal and state tax credits for first-time and new-home buyers that for him could total up to \$18,000.

After putting down about 20 percent, Cretu said his mortgage, property taxes, and condo fees were running just a couple of hundred bucks above the rent he was paying for a one-bed, one-bath rental he had in University City. Perhaps most important, he doesn't worry about a further price decline.

"My thing is that I am never going to get the lowest price," said Cretu. "The unit has probably lost another 1 or 2 percent, but when you're getting close to what you paid for rent, it paid to buy."

But the risks of bottom-fishing the region's dicey condo market became apparent for another professional who bought a downtown condo last year.

In that case, the mid-

career professional — who asked to not be named — paid \$417,000 for a unit that had sold for \$595,000 just three years earlier. Seemed like a good deal at the time. But a larger unit in the same building with an additional parking space later sold for \$40,000 less.

"And people tell me that extra parking place is worth at least \$20,000," said the professional.

Sherman Harmer, chairman of the Downtown Residential Marketing Alliance, said the city's core has fared somewhat better than other areas. So-called distressed sales of condos — foreclosures and short sales — have made up 6 or 7 percent of downtown sales, compared with levels that have exceeded 20 percent elsewhere, he said.

Harmer is also encouraged by the increased volume of sales downtown and what he anticipates will be a declining inventory of unsold units. Developers have trimmed inventory by pulling units off the market and renting them. In the 679-unit Vantage Pointe development, nearing completion at Tenth Avenue and A Street, for example, the developer plans to rent nearly 400 units, rather than offer them for sale in

Cold condos

continued from page 8

stimulate developers to return rental units to the condo market for sale.

Louis Galuppo, director of residential real estate at the Burnham-Moore Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego, isn't so sanguine. He said many lenders have held off on foreclosing until they could understand new programs proposed by the Obama administration to prevent foreclosures. But those programs will work for only a small number of distressed homeowners, Galuppo has concluded.

"We will see a high number of foreclosures over the next year," said Galuppo. Nonetheless, he added, "I think we are very close to the bottom for existing homes."

Pete Thistle, a broker with 92101 Urban Living, said there are currently many folks shopping for condo bargains. And

with the dramatically lower prices, he said, "All of a sudden, San Diego is affordable."

But the questions keeping many from venturing into the market remain: Will the local housing market be even more affordable one year from now? And will I still be working next year? ■

MIXED SIGNALS

Foreclosures, booming sales make market predictions difficult

By ZACH FOX | zfox@nctimes.com

In a story previewing the real estate market in January 2009, the North County Times painted a murky picture of increasing sales mixed with falling prices and a disconcerting level of foreclosures.

Those looking for clarity as the summer homebuying season — typically the high point for home sales — approaches will be sorely disappointed.

In a sentence, prices and sales indicate a bottoming, even recovering, of home prices, while foreclosures and unemployment suggest more pain ahead.

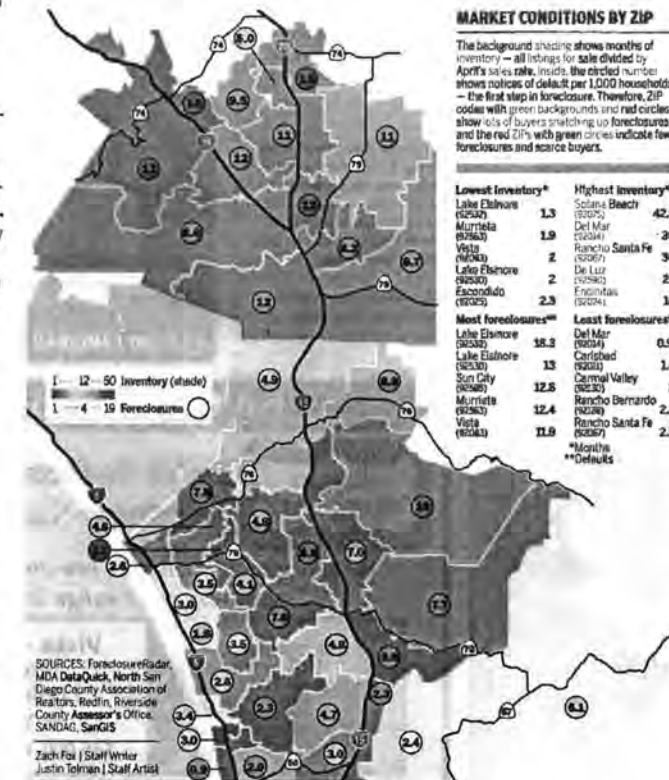
And even that vague, say-nothing conclusion oversimplifies things, as lower-priced houses appear much closer to a bottom than those in the higher price ranges.

The case for a bottoming or recovering housing market is strongest along Highway 78 (Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido) and Southwest Riverside County, where housing inventory — the length of time to sell all active listings — has dipped below three months. Six months is considered healthy; three months is screaming hot.

What's hot — and not

Over the past three months, 157 houses — not including condominiums — sold for less than \$200,000 in Escondido alone, according to listing site Redfin. These homes are often 50 to 70 percent below their previous, bubble-era sales prices.

For perspective, prices hit bottom during the last real estate recession in 1996, when the median price was 3.9 times the median household income and the typical mortgage was at 31 percent of income.



Areas such as Escondido and parts of Oceanside have approached that level, with median prices at about five times median income and historically low interest rates pushing the typical mortgage to roughly 30 percent of income.

However, the numbers flip in high-end areas such as Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe. Inventory has breached a new stratosphere at anywhere from 25 to 50 months to sell all listings. Meanwhile, median prices in Carlsbad and Carmel Valley are still 10

times income, and mortgages suck up 50 to 55 percent of one's salary.

That suggests prices have room to fall in the upper end.

In a dynamic that is reflected in the divergent inventory numbers, buyers are avoiding the higher end and finding the purchase process on the lower end surprisingly frustrating; real estate agents have reported up to 25 offers on a single house.

That has turned the market in the red-hot areas into bidding wars, with several properties selling over asking

price.

"People are afraid things are heading back up, and if they don't jump now, they're going to get frozen out," said Gene Wunderlich, a real estate agent in Wildomar.

Indeed, Wunderlich says the average price-per-square-foot has stabilized over the past three months in Vista and Murrieta (Housing analyst Louis Galuppo makes similar arguments in a point-counterpoint discussion on pages 12-13; his opponent, Christopher Thornberg, disagrees.)

Caveats abound

But even that limited optimism on the lower end comes with enough caveats to make the Music Man check his sales pitch.

First, that stable price-per-square foot number is a crude metric prone to fluctuations based on which homes sold that month. The more-reliable Case-Shiller index is current only through February, and it showed prices still dropping.

Next, some analysts think those red-hot inventory numbers in Escondido, Oceanside and most of Southwest Riverside County aren't that telling, because it's hard to determine how many foreclosures are actually up for sale.

Lenders and government agencies have embraced foreclosure moratoriums, delaying the process of actually seizing the property and putting it back on the market. Once those foreclosures are put on the market, the inventory number could shoot up in a hurry.

Foreclosures are spiking, along with job losses. And neither appears to be slowing any time soon (see story Page 15).

The case for more gloom

Looking at all indicators, it's easy to make a case for an extended housing recession.

Few analysts tout a better track record than Riverside real estate investor Bruce Norris, who in 1997 predicted huge housing appreciation and then saw the crash come in 2005.

Unlike Wunderlich and Galuppo, Norris stresses stability in his market.

"The market isn't going to crash," he said.

But he says "shadow foreclosures and unemployment, and we're in a perfect storm."

At the same time, first-time homebuyers are looking at a sweet deal: They can buy for less than it costs to rent in many areas, build equity in the property and enjoy hefty tax breaks.

Top it with best-in-decades

See Signals, next page

Signals

Continued from Page 8

interest rates below 5 percent that could be squashed by growing concerns of hyperinflation, and buying now is very attractive, even if prices drop 20 percent from today, probably the worst-case scenario. Interest rates would need to increase only to 7 percent — normal, even good, by historical standards — to negate a 20 percent savings on the price.

Contact staff writer ZACH FOX at 760-740-5412. Read his blogs at bizblogs.nctimes.com.

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

May 25, 2009



USD Schedules Midyear Economic Update

The University of San Diego's Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate plans to host its first midyear economic conference June 11, which will feature a panel of experts offering insights on the economy.

The experts include Marney Cox, chief economist, San Diego Association of Gov-

ernments; Kelly Cunningham, economist, National University System Institute for Policy Research; and Ryan Ratcliff, assistant professor of economics, USD.

For questions about the event, contact Diane Gustafson at 619-260-2379. The cost is \$45 per person.

— Tom York

DAILY BUSINESS REPORT

May 26 , 2009

San Diego Metropolitan

GIN ON THE ECONOMY

Alan Gin, associate professor of economics at USD, will speak at the **La Jolla New Generations Rotary Club** meeting on Wednesday (May 27) at 5:30 p.m. Gin's topic will be "A San Diego Economic Update." The meeting will take place at the **La Jolla Marriott, Characters Grill**, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive in San Diego. The cost is \$10 per person with food included and happy hour available. No reservation is necessary and complimentary hotel parking is included. Gin publishes USD's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County.

May 18, 2009

On the Agenda

By Rebecca Go

SAN DIEGO — Local defense industry group The Security Network plans to build on the success of its conference last year with its sixth annual Security Summit, which starts Wednesday and devotes the entire first day to cybersecurity and international trade.

The two-day event is expected to draw more than 200 attendees from numerous companies and several countries and will feature panels and keynote speakers from the top levels of government, military, academia and industry.

The Security Network touts its innovative products competition as the highlight of the event. Entrants will compete in eight different categories. To register, visit thesecuritynetwork.org.

Accounting Day 2009 aims to educate finance and accounting professionals with a series of sessions from 7:15 a.m. to 5:05 p.m. Monday.

The theme is "Building Foundations" and features local economist Alan Ginsburg as the keynote speaker. To register,

visit accountingday.org.

SCORE heads to Carlsbad on Monday to help business owners understand financial reporting and statements in a workshop from 9 a.m. to noon. To register, visit carlsbad.org.

Verizon Wireless (NYSE: VZ) chief technology officer Anthony Melone details what's ahead for his company at a town hall meeting Monday from 5-7:30 p.m. at Qualcomm (Nasdaq: QCOM)'s headquarters. For more information, visit commnexus.org.

The local Association for Corporate Growth chapter reviews mergers and acquisitions at its Tuesday event from 7-9 a.m. For more information, visit acgsd.org and click on "Events."

Connect addresses U.S. patent policy and its effect on San Diego in a Tuesday public policy forum from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. To register, visit connect.org.

The Urban Land Institute San Diego chapter holds a two-day summit starting Tuesday at 8 a.m. for local business owners on sustainable development. To register, visit ulisd.org.

SCORE lends a hand to new business owners with a seminar on "How to Start and Manage Your Own Business" on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. For more information, visit score-sandiego.org.

The Urban Land Institute San Diego/Tijuana spends the Tuesday lunch hour reviewing real estate investment entities and securities law from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit ulisd.org.

The Security Network kicks off its sixth annual, two-day Security Summit at 7 a.m. Wednesday. To register, visit thesecuritynetwork.org.

The local Institute of Management Consultants chapter hears from a strategist Wednesday between 7-9 a.m. on how to use IRS codes to advantage. Register by Tuesday at imcsd.org.

The Disney Institute talks to the San Diego Society for Human Resource Management on Wednesday between 8-11:30 a.m. about "Leading in a Culture of Change." To register, visit sdshrm.org.

SCORE reviews bookkeeping software QuickBooks at its Wednesday workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit score-sandiego.org.

WITI event attendees get some communication training at the Wednesday regional network event from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit witi.com/sandiego.

Connect hosts a talk on the future of heart surgery on Wednesday from noon-1:30 p.m. To register, visit connect.org.

The Oceanside Chamber of Commerce talks about selling

in tough times at its Wednesday luncheon from 12-1:30 p.m. To register, visit oceansidechamber.com.

Attorney and broker Gary Laturno offers a series of courses through the San Diego County Bar Association on real estate property law: one on Wednesday from noon-1:45 p.m. and another on Thursday from noon-1:15 p.m.

For a full course listing, visit sdcba.org and click on "Meetings & Events."

The YMCA of San Diego County hosts a seminar on estate planning and exit strategies for family-owned businesses Wednesday from 2-5:30 p.m. with a reception following. To register, visit commnexus.org.

The San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union holds a free workshop Wednesday from 3:30-5 p.m. on managing credit and building good credit.

To RSVP to 619-276-5724 or workshops@sdmcu.org.

The local California Society for CPAs chapter celebrates the organization's centennial and installs its new president Wednesday between 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the San Diego Art Institute. To register, visit calcpa.org and visit the San Diego Chapter page under "Your Society."

Commercial Real Estate Women of San Diego offers a building tour of the Summit Rancho Bernardo office development on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register by Monday at crewsandiego.org by clicking on "Upcoming Events/Programs" under "Calendar."

The East County Personnel Association covers the "Best Practices for Discipline and Layoffs" and its lunch meeting Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit ecopa.net.

Money Talk Radio offers an income tax workshop Thursday from noon-1 p.m. and from 6-7 p.m. For more information visit moneytalkradio.com. The workshop will also be offered Saturday.

The city of San Diego invites contractors to participate in a Potential Bidders Conference Thursday from 2-4 p.m. to learn about upcoming contracts for \$500 million in capital improvement projects.

The event will be held at the Palisades Recital Hall in Balboa Park. For more information, contact Perri Storey at 619-533-3781 or pstorey@sandiego.gov.

Iraq War veteran and author Col. H.R. McMaster speaks at a Thursday event

from 4-7 p.m. hosted by the EMC Business Forum and the Chairmen's Roundtable.

McMaster will speak about leadership lessons he believes to be transferable from the battlefield to the business environment.

The San Diego Rotary Club hosts law professor and former Wall Street trader Frank Partnoy to speak at its Thursday meeting at 4:30 p.m. about his latest book. For more information, visit rotary33.org.

SCORE offers an introductory guide to importing and exporting at its Friday workshop from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information, visit score-sandiego.org.

CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE JOURNAL

May 4, 2009



WEDNESDAY, MAY 6-27

USD REAL ESTATE FINANCE COURSE

Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate at the University of San Diego presents a four-week course that will provide working knowledge about the four types of income properties and will help students underwrite the cash flows from each.

- Wednesdays, May 6-May 27, 6 to 9 p.m.
- USD, Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center
- Cost: \$450
- Visit www.usdce.org/realestate

On the Agenda

By Rebecca Go

Two corporate governance experts square off Wednesday in a debate on the true value of corporate governance.

University of Colorado professor Sanjai Bhagat and special counsel Patrick McGurn will discuss whether good governance affects company performance, ability to attract capital and overall value.

The Harvard Business School Club of San Diego focuses on the city's employee retirement system Tuesday in its CEO Forum with guest speaker David Wescoe, the administrator and CEO of the retirement system. To RSVP for the 7-8:30 a.m. breakfast event, visit hbssandiego.org.

Connect and CleanTECH San Diego hold a public policy forum on cleantech financing Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. The discussion will focus on government funding as well as traditional sources of capital. For more information, visit connect.org.

The Centre City Development Corp. hosts a forum Tuesday on downtown San Diego's park and open space planning. The 6-7:30 p.m. event includes a presentation on the findings from a needs assessment. For more information, visit cdc.com.

Connect provides a venture capital overview Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon, including how the processes work, how to deal with investors, and definitions of common terms. For more information, visit connect.org.

Diversity Solutions holds a career and health fair Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. For more information, visit diversitysolutions.us.

The Corporate Directors Forum hosts a debate on corporate governance Wednesday between 5:30-8 p.m. For more information, visit directorsforum.com.

The University of San Diego begins offering one of its core courses on real estate finance Wednesday as part of its Certificate in Real Estate professional education program. For more information, visit usdce.org/realestate.

Biocom celebrates its annual DeviceFest in Newport Beach on Thursday with a panel discussion, case studies and an exhibition between 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit biocom.org.

The Construction Management Association of America offers a seminar on change orders Thursday from 8-10:30

a.m. To register, visit cmaa-sd.org and click on "Calendar of Events" under "Events."

The first San Diego Microfinance Summit kicks off Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., highlighting the local and international work of San Diego's microfinance organizations in various panel discussions. For more information, visit sdmicrofinance-summit.org.

The Corporate Finance Council discusses "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Medical Devices" with chairman Peter Farrell of RealMed (NYSE: RMD) at its monthly dinner meeting Thursday. Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP, visit corporatefinance-council.org.

The Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce educates its local businesses Friday on how to be "green" — socially, environmentally and economically — as part of its special certification program, which includes monthly workshops. Friday's workshop from 7:30-8:30 a.m. covers solid waste and purchasing reusable items. For more information, visit carlsbad.org and click on "Green Checklist Workshops."

The local American Concrete Institute chapter holds its annual awards dinner from 6-10 p.m. To register, visit aci-sandiego.org.

The Museum of Contemporary Art holds its final installment of its Master Architects Lecture Series on Friday at 7 p.m. For more information, visit mcasd.org and click on "Events."



CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE JOURNAL

May 26, 2009



USD WEALTH TRANSFER PROGRAM

*Learn how to use declining values and low interest rates and inter-family loans to increase wealth transfer opportunities at this program by the **Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate** at the University of San Diego. The event will include information on estate tax deferral and business succession issues.*

- 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, in San Diego
- Cost: \$95
- Visit www.sandiego.edu/business/centers/real_estate

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 4, 2009

OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 5 - FORUM

CEO FORUM: SAN DIEGO CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Guest speaker is David Wescoe, who has served as the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System (SDCERS) since 2006. For more info, visit www.hbssandiego.org.
Organization: Harvard Business School Club of San Diego **Information:** 619-757-6551 nicole@thehenleycompany.com **Cost:** \$40.00 **When:** Hours: 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM **Where:** Fish & Richardson, 12390 El Camino Real, San Diego, 92130

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 - TRAINING SESSION

DIVERSITY DAY FAIR

Workshops will provide a venue for job seekers to meet one-on-one with hiring employers, listen to guest speakers and learn interview techniques and other tips. **Organization:** Diversity Solutions **Information:** Oran Brown (619) 277-9099 Oran@diversitysolutions.us **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Hours: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **Where:** Jacobs Community Center, 404 Euclid Ave., San Diego, 92114, Venue Phone - (619) 277-9099

FRIDAY, MAY 8 - SEMINAR

GET CERTIFIED FOR BEING ECO-FRIENDLY

Learn how to meet specific requirements to be certified as socially, environmentally and economically responsible. **Organization:** Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce **Information:** Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce 760-931-8400 **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Where:** Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, 5934 Priestly Drive, Carlsbad, Venue Phone - 760-931-8400

FRIDAY, MAY 8 - SPECIAL EVENT

NEW VISION OF THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION FOUNDATION

Honorable Susan Golden, CEO/President of the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation, makes a major public announcement and offers important details about the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation. Host of state, county and city elected officials will be in attendance. **Organization:** Child Abuse Prevention Foundation **Information:** (858) 278-4400 info@capfsd.org **Cost:** No Details Available **When:** Starts: 10:30 AM **Where:** Child Abuse Foundation Parking Lot, 8440 Ruffin Court, San Diego, 92123

TUESDAY, MAY 12 - WORKSHOP SERIES

SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS OPEN HOUSE

The open house will feature instructors and program graduates, along with author and keynote speaker Michelle Bergquist. **Organization:** University of San Diego **Information:** Julia Chemers 619-260-7699 juliarose@sandiego.edu **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Hours: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM **Where:** Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 - WORKSHOP

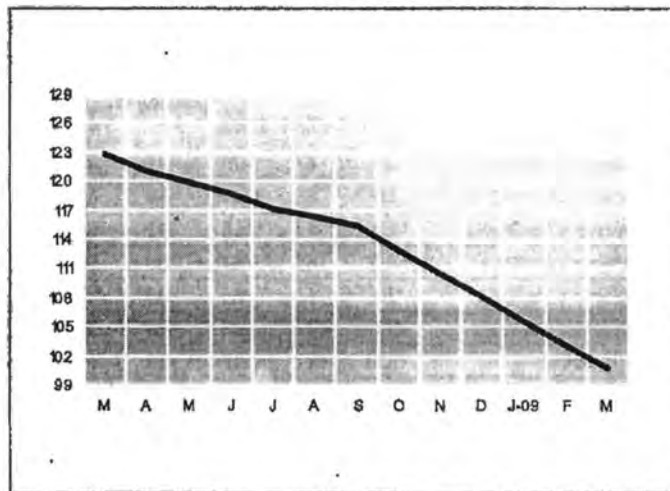
THE BENEFITS OF INTERNSHIPS

Topics to be discussed will include applying soft skills, including interpersonal communication skills, in internships and volunteer opportunities. **Organization:** Grossmont College Career Center **Information:** (619) 644-7614 www.grossmont.edu/jobplacement **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Hours: 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM **Where:** Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 18, 2009

Leading economic indicators



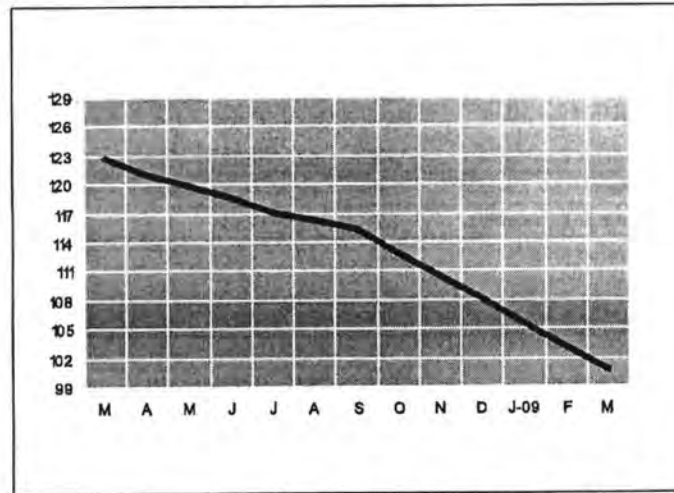
Source: University of San Diego

The monthly changes in leading indicators (initial claims for unemployment insurance, local stock prices, outlook for the national economy, consumer confidence, building permits and help wanted advertising) of the San Diego economy as tracked by Alan Gin, an urban economics professor at the University of San Diego. The highest monthly rate is 122.7 in March 2008.

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 11, 2009

Leading economic indicators



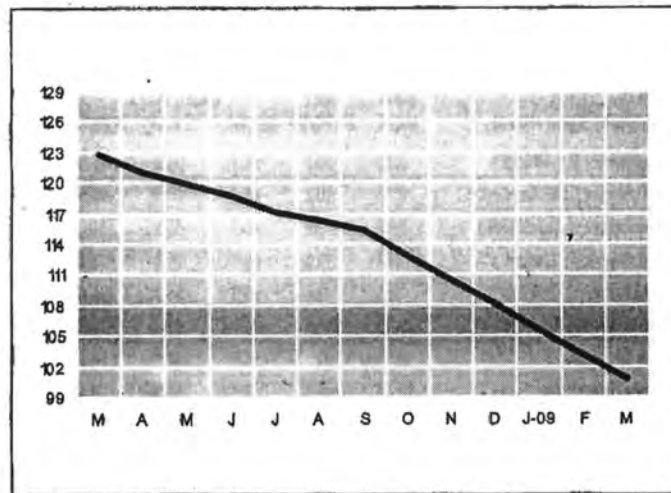
Source: University of San Diego

The monthly changes in leading indicators (initial claims for unemployment insurance, local stock prices, outlook for the national economy, consumer confidence, building permits and help wanted advertising) of the San Diego economy as tracked by Alan Gin, an urban economics professor at the University of San Diego. The highest monthly rate is 122.7 in March 2008.

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 4, 2009

Leading economic indicators



Source: University of San Diego

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School of Law

The New York Times

May 15, 2009

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Danger in Wall Street's Shadows

By FRANK PARTNOY

San Diego

ON Wednesday, the Obama administration fired a shot across the bow of lobbyists — and their friends in Congress — who have been guarding against regulation of derivatives, the financial instruments at the center of the financial crisis. In a brief letter, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner suggested how new laws might help regulators oversee this \$600 trillion shadow market.

For nearly two decades, derivatives have been at the center of every major financial calamity — from the bankruptcy of Orange County in California to Long-Term Capital Management to Enron to the recent subprime mortgage collapse. Yet over time, derivatives have become subject to progressively less regulation. Following the lead of the Federal Reserve chairman at the time, Alan Greenspan, both political parties in the 1990s agreed with Wall Street that derivatives should be permitted to grow unchecked.

Why are derivatives so problematic? Although they have useful purposes, particularly for hedging risks — as when an airline bets on increases in jet fuel prices — they frequently are used to avoid the disclosure rules applied to other financial transactions. A.I.G. held tens of billions of dollars of subprime mortgage-related derivatives, but did not tell its investors or counterparties.

Citigroup, Lehman Brothers and other banks used derivatives to place hidden trillion-dollar bets. Even now, numerous institutions are using derivatives to skirt investment restrictions or to take on unwarranted leverage.

This is an old story: during the 1920s, complicated techniques helped companies move risks off balance sheets or into off-shore subsidiaries. In response to the fall of Ivar Kreuger, the financier who pioneered these innovations, Congress adopted the securities laws of the 1930s, designed to plug two key regulatory gaps by requiring more disclosure and protecting investors against fraud.

Mr. Geithner's proposal has the same twin goals: to improve disclosure and to police unsuitable sales of derivatives. These reforms are much needed. Banks might not have taken on so much subprime mortgage risk if they had been required to disclose it. Nor would they have marketed unsuitable products to pension funds and municipalities if they had more clearly been subject to liability.

Yet there is one potential weakness in the Treasury proposal, one that reopens a dangerous loophole. Mr. Geithner suggested that derivatives should be split between standardized instruments, which would be traded on regulated exchanges, and privately negotiated contracts, customized deals (often called "swaps") that are made between two financial organizations and would not be publicly traded or regulated. Rather,

such transactions would be reported privately to a "trade repository," which apparently would make only limited aggregate data available to the public.

This proposal of Mr. Geithner's also echoes history, but in a more dangerous way. In 1989, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, a federal agency then led by Wendy Gramm, an economist and the wife of Senator Phil Gramm, a Texas Republican, issued a policy statement splitting derivatives into these same two categories. Standardized derivatives would be traded on exchanges, but individually negotiated contracts would not. Four years later, Ms. Gramm signed an order making this policy official, a sort of farewell gift to the derivatives industry before she left government service and took a place on Enron's board.

The exception swallowed the rule, as regulators deemed more derivatives "individually negotiated." In December 2000 Senator Gramm led a lobbying effort to cement his wife's approach. It paid off: one of President Bill Clinton's last official acts was to sign the law largely deregulating derivatives.

The leading derivatives lobbying group, the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, is already looking to exploit the Treasury's proposal to split derivatives markets in two. As part of its lobbying campaign to protect negotiated instruments, it insists that last year "the derivatives business — and in particular the credit default swaps business — functioned very effectively during extremely difficult market conditions."

Congress should not be fooled by such talk again. The current crisis is proof that although most people do not trade derivatives, everyone is subject to their risks. All derivatives, exchange-traded or private, must be in the sunlight. If institutions want to negotiate individual derivatives contracts, they should tell investors the full details of their exposure.

For decades, the American financial markets attracted capital because investors believed they were getting the information they needed. That faith has been shaken. To restore it, Congress should enact all of Mr. Geithner's proposals, except one: it should not permit any private derivatives to grow in the dark. Otherwise, today's exception will become tomorrow's rule.

Frank Partnoy is a law professor at the University of San Diego and the author of "The Match King: Ivar Kreuger, the Financial Genius Behind a Century of Wall Street Scandals."

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Why AIG Stumbled, And Taxpayers Now Own It

Steve Kroft Reports On The Troubled Insurance Giant, And Talks To Its New CEO

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May 17, 2009

(CBS) Of all the corporate bailouts that have taken place over the past year, none has proved more costly or contentious than the rescue of American International Group (AIG). Its reckless bets on subprime mortgages threatened to bring down Wall Street and the world economy last fall until the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve stepped in to save it.

So far, the huge insurance and financial services conglomerate has been given or promised \$180 billion in loans, investments, financial injections and guarantees - a sum greater than the annual cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In return the U.S. taxpayers have been given a 79 percent equity stake in the company. We are now AIG's largest shareholder. We have 116,000 loyal employees who had nothing to do with this mess, some valuable insurance assets, and a new CEO, Edward Liddy, who says his only mission is to get our money back.

"I think we have almost a unique place, and not a very desirable place, in terms of the anger and frustration that Americans feel about bailouts. You know, individuals aren't being bailed out. Why should a company be bailed out? So I understand it. We're just trying to do the best we can to pay back the taxpayer," Liddy told **60 Minutes** correspondent **Steve Kroft**.

For the past eight months, Liddy's job has been to prevent AIG from collapsing: trying to extricate the company from its disastrous trades, and selling off the crown jewels of what was once one of the world's great businesses, all to satisfy its massive debt to Uncle Sam.

"Are there people from the government on this floor?" Kroft asked Liddy.

"There aren't people from the government on this floor. But I would guess today, there's probably 20, or 30, or 40, or 50 people either in our building or over at the Federal Reserve, which is a couple of blocks away, worrying and thinking about things related to AIG. They come to our board meetings. They come to our committee meetings. We have them in any strategic meetings, any decisions to buy assets, to sell assets. They're involved in those," he explained.

It's a thankless job that Liddy neither sought nor particularly wanted. He had retired from the chairmanship of the Allstate insurance company and was serving on the board of Goldman Sachs when Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Goldman's former chairman, asked him to take over AIG.

Liddy agreed to do it for a salary of one dollar a year

Asked what ever possessed him to take the job for a dollar a year, Liddy told Kroft, "First, I think, like much of your audience, if somebody calls and says, 'Could you please help your country?' people say, 'Yes.' With respect to a dollar a year, I knew I'd have to make some tough decisions. I didn't want in any way, shape, or form people to question my integrity, my honesty as to why I was doing it."

"Did you have any idea what you were getting into?" Kroft asked.

"In some regards, I did, and in some regards, I didn't. So certainly understanding how to restructure a company, I've done that before. The political issues, how you relate to the Federal Reserve or Treasury, or the Congress, that's new and sometimes terrifying to me," Liddy said.

"Especially the Congress," Kroft remarked.

"Especially the Congress, yes," Liddy replied.

Congress raked him over the coals for paying out \$165 million in bonuses to some of the very people who helped wreck AIG. The bonus deals had been signed before Liddy got there.

"It's difficult to sit there and have 30 or 35 people throwing barbs at you, and really not appreciating that you're on their side and you're trying to help," Liddy said.

Asked if he knew how bad things were at the company when he took the job, Liddy told Kroft, "No, no, not at all."

Not long after he arrived, AIG reported the largest quarterly loss in U.S. history - more than \$60 billion during the final three months of last year.

The sprawling holding company, that controlled some of the biggest insurance companies in the world, owned and leased more jet aircraft than most of the major airlines, and provided investment income for pensions, municipalities and other institutions around the world, had its tentacles everywhere. And the threat of collapse walked the global financial system to the edge on an abyss.

"I know you're not to blame for any of this, but you are the current proprietor, so to speak. Big picture, what happened?" Kroft asked.

"We strayed from our core skills. ... in the late '80s, we put in something called AIG FP. It wasn't an insurance company. It's a company that dealt in very sophisticated financial products," Liddy explained.

With offices in London and Connecticut, AIG Financial Products had fewer than 500 employees, but it made enough bad deals to destroy the rest of the company.

The division was created by longtime AIG Chairman Maurice "Hank" Greenberg, who was forced to resign after an accounting scandal in 2005, and was succeeded by Martin Sullivan.

Like most of Wall Street, AIG FP became enamored with the amount of money to be made in the subprime mortgage market.

Not only did AIG buy billions of the now toxic mortgage-backed securities, the financial products division looked at their computer models and decided that the securities were so safe it could make tons of money insuring them for other investors who bought them.

These private, unregulated insurance contracts were called credit default swaps, and would ultimately expose the giant conglomerate to \$64 billion in potential subprime mortgage losses; when the housing bubble burst, AIG didn't have enough money to meet its obligations.

Liddy estimated that just 20 or 30 people were involved in bringing down the company.

"How can 20 or 30 people bring down a company the size of AIG? I mean, that requires a lot of failures, doesn't it?" Kroft asked. "On the part of a lot of different people, on the people in risk management?"

"You know Steve, I don't necessarily see it that way. I think it requires a belief that models are always right and human intervention won't offset them. It assumes that the kinds of risks that were viewed to be so remote could not occur. But in fact, they did occur," Liddy replied.

"This was a pretty colossal screw up. You would agree?" Kroft asked.

"Yeah, I'd say in hindsight, if the people that made that decision had to do it over again, my guess would be that they would not do it," Liddy said.

"What they did was that they underwrote the credit bubble in the U.S. They held up a sign. And they said, 'We're ready to buy the stuff.' It was a cash cow for them. They liked it. They loved the business. And they backstopped the credit bubble and the whole economy," Rich Ferlauto, director of pension investments for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees [AFSCME], told Kroft.

AFSCME's members' pension plans lost \$4.3 billion on investments in AIG stock. Ferlauto blames company executives, the board of directors, and a compensation system that rewarded short-term profits while ignoring long-term risk.

Asked why he thinks the people at AIG FP took these risks, Ferlauto told Kroft, "For the most part, I don't think they saw the risk. They knew the risk was out there But they were driven because they thought they could make a buck. They were sort of blindsided by the ability to make short-term money."

"And it was more than a buck," Kroft pointed out.

"This is the kind of money that most average people only dream of and then some. It's like hitting the jackpot every year," Ferlauto replied.

At AIG Financial Products, more than 30 percent of the profits were paid out in compensation. And no one benefited more than Joseph Cassano, who oversaw the London operation that brought AIG down.

Cassano, who is holed up in his London apartment, has declined all requests for interviews.

Liddy told Kroft he has never met Joe Cassano.

"But he's clearly one of the 20 people who helped wreck this company," Kroft said.

"Joe Cassano ran FP for a number of years," Liddy replied.

"According to these figures I have, he made \$43 million in 2006, \$24 million in 2007 - a total of \$280 million over the course of the eight years. Do you believe that he was more concerned with the values and the survival of AIG than he was about his own compensation?" Kroft asked.

"Based upon those numbers, it doesn't sound like it. But that's pure speculation on my part," Liddy said.

Cassano continued to defend his investment strategy even after the subprime mortgage crisis reared its ugly head in the summer of 2007. On a conference call with Wall Street analysts he said there was nothing to worry about: "We see no dollar of loss associated with any of that business."

He was off by more than \$40 billion.

"Do you think that Mr. Cassano knew that everything was all right in August, 2007, when he made that statement?" Kroft asked.

"I don't know what he was thinking," Liddy said.

"You mean, like I don't know what he was thinking?" Kroft asked.

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"Either he didn't know what was going on, which is a kind of promising prospect, or he did, which would suggest that he and maybe others at AIG FP engaged in a massive fraud over a period of years. It's one of those two choices," Frank Partnoy told Kroft.

Partnoy is a law professor at the University of San Diego and an expert on the kind of complicated financial derivatives that ruined AIG.

"The fraud would be not telling AIG's shareholders, its investors, about the massive risks that AIG was taking," Partnoy explained. "The fraud would be not disclosing the fact. And it turned out to be a fact, that AIG had significant exposure to subprime mortgages."

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But there are still employees working at AIG FP, winding the business down, getting paid and getting bonuses.

"You may have said, 'Let's shut it down,' but you're not out of that business yet," Kroft pointed out.

"No, we are not out of the business. And it'll take a while for us to be out of it. But we will substantially de-risk and shrink that business by the end of this year. People will be surprised by how much progress we make," Liddy said.

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asked Liddy.

"Steve, we've had some resignations," Liddy replied. "We've had some people who have said 'I'm going to resign, I'm not going to give you my resignation now, because I want to do this professionally and I want to help you.'"

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"We're not an island," Liddy told Kroft. "We're very much dependent upon what happens in the overall economy and the overall financial marketplace. But we have a plan that we'll execute over the next couple of years that we think has an excellent chance of repaying the federal government."

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Posted: Monday, 18 May 2009 6:33AM

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[Click HERE to see '60 Minutes' video: Why AIG Stumbled, And Taxpayers Now Own It](#)

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More problems in state oversight of 529 plans

Posted by [Brent Hunsberger](#), The Oregonian May 05, 2009 04:57AM

Categories: [College](#)

Today you'll find our latest report on the state Treasurer's slow reaction to last year's investment losses in the Oregon 529 College Savings Network.

Illinois has other issues over state management of its plan. The Chicago Tribune disclosed Monday that its state Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias had used [state funds](#) to buy an SUV as his state car. Illinois' plan, called Bright Star, lost \$80 million last year.

For past posts about college savings plans, click [here](#). [More below](#)

Still confused about what brought down Oppenheimer and Core Bond fund? University of San Diego law professor [Frank Partnoy](#), who essentially warned of this current financial crisis several years ago, describes derivatives and credit-default swaps on NPR's Fresh Air.

Tags: [college](#), [college savings plans](#), [OppenheimerFunds](#), [Oregon 529 College Savings Network](#)

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Posted by [onlymoney](#) on 05/05/09 at 3:59PM

Reader Curt Germundson writes in response to our story on Oregon's oversight:

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GOLF JOURNAL | MAY 23, 2009

Rules Are Made to Be ... Completely Baffling

Even pros are stymied by golf's laws, but geeks love them; J.P. Hayes confesses

By JOHN PAUL NEWPORT



Most golfers, even those who claim to understand the difference between a water hazard and a lateral water hazard, would be hard pressed to make a knowledge-based argument on either side of the Kenny Perry rules kerfuffle that popped up last week. Did he or did he not improperly improve his lie last February in a playoff at the FBR Open? The same holds for the dispute surrounding whether Rory McIlroy illegally kicked the sand or legally "smoothed" it after flubbing a bunker shot at the Masters last month. We everyday golfers can't be expected to know every nuance of the regulations involved (Rule 13-2 and Rule 13-4/decision 36, respectively), as we have enough on our minds trying not to reverse pivot. But rules geeks live for such moments.

"It's a joy, there's a genuine pleasure in discussing these kind of issues," said David Fay, a veteran rules hound who is also executive director of the U.S. Golf Association. And the rest of us should be glad they're on the case.

In a video snippet from the FBR broadcast that for some reason began circulating this month, Mr. Perry tamps the high grass behind his ball with a wedge three or four times about 90 seconds before addressing it, and the ball goes from being just barely visible to almost fully so. It certainly appears as if he improved his lie, although camera angles can be deceptive. No one suggests that Mr. Perry was trying to cheat. He has a stellar reputation and was surely aware of the camera recording the moment only a few feet away. But in adjudicating rule 13-2, intention doesn't matter, only the facts. The rule specifically allows "grounding the club lightly" behind a ball at address, even if it results in an improved lie, but specifically forbids "pressing a club on the ground." The rule has nothing to say about lightly grounding a club before addressing the ball. In any case, Mr. Perry sat down with two PGA Tour rules officials on May 14 to review the tape and, after taking everything into account, they cleared him of any wrongdoing.

By contrast, the pass that Masters rules officials gave Mr. McIlroy, the budding superstar from Northern Ireland, did rely on intention. When summoned back to Augusta National to discuss the incident several hours after his round, Mr. McIlroy explained that he was merely smoothing the sand with his foot as he usually does after a bunker shot. Had he kicked the sand as contended by several onlookers, that would have been deemed "testing" the hazard, a two-stroke violation since his ball remained in the bunker after his previous shot. The result of that determination would have been disqualification, because Mr. McIlroy had already signed his scorecard without adding the penalty strokes.

Decisions like these, because they are based on capricious-seeming subtleties in the rules, often evoke consternation among fans and the media, especially when other cases that seem equally innocent are decided more harshly. Last week at the Irish Open, for example, two pros were disqualified for infractions that they, too, obviously did not intend. One player transposed two digits on his scorecard, thus signing for a lower score on one of the holes than he actually made. The other player inadvertently carried 15 clubs in his bag instead of the maximum allowed, 14.

The rules are a bear, I'll grant, and like any statutory system yield occasional head-banging outcomes. But for every decision that seems patently unfair or mired in gray, there is at least a well-thought-through rationale. The rules geeks have heard every possible objection before and in most cases debated alternatives.

In the case of a wrong scorecard, for instance, there's no practical way of allowing players to alter their scores after the fact without wreaking havoc on tournament administration. For clubs, 14 is an arbitrary number but some limit had to be selected back in the 1930s when some players began carrying dozens of clubs for every circumstance. Once 14 was settled upon, exceeding it became a black-or-white issue. How could you sometimes allow 15?

Golf has only 34 rules, but they require some 27,000 words to elucidate and are supplemented by approximately 1,300 separate "decisions on the rules of golf." The decisions amount to a kind of worst-case-scenario handbook. Covered are such unlikely topics as what happens if a scampering squirrel steals your ball after it's been stroked on the putting green (versus anywhere else on the course), and how do you score a putt if the person tending the flagstick inadvertently yanks out the hole liner and blocks your ball from falling into the hole (it depends on whether the hole liner was moving when your ball struck it).

"The main reason there are so many rules and decisions is because the playground is so large and varied, and almost anything can happen. It's not like tennis, where the court is uniform," said Mr. Fay. Every four years the USGA and its fellow rules-making body, the Royal & Ancient in St. Andrews, Scotland, announce new and amended rules to adapt to new circumstances, and new decisions are rendered accordingly, all of which rules scholars study like the Talmud.

Fundamentally, however, the rules can be reduced to a few underlying principles—only two, in the opinion of John Minan, a professor at the University of San Diego School of Law and author of "The Little Green Book of Golf Law." The first is to play the course as you find it and the second is to play your ball without touching it until you hole out—except, of course, when there are exceptions. The rules define and explain the exceptions. And for situations that aren't covered in the rules, there's the all-important equity clause, Rule 1.4: When in doubt, do what's fair.

Compared with any government or legal system, the rules of golf are lean. For the most part they are also self-administered, rather than policed or refereed, a complexity-avoiding virtue made possible because golf, for the most part, is played in small self-regulating units that resemble tribes or families. The 144-man field in a typical PGA Tour event, for example, approximately resembles a tribe. Everyone knows everyone else, even if not well then by reputation, and the sanctions against breaking the rules, enforced by peer pressure, are strong. Last December, for example, journeyman pro J.P. Hayes disqualified himself from the final stage of qualifying school for accidentally playing an unofficial ball. Nobody except him knew of the violation, and it cost him his Tour playing privileges for 2009, but he said he never considered not turning himself in once he realized what had happened. "Anybody else would have done the same," he said.

Saturday-morning foursomes, which are family-size units, self-regulate the same way. They may not play strictly according to USGA rules (you seldom see players in recreational rounds marching back to the tee to rehit their drives when they can't find their ball, as the rules would normally require), but foursomes do abide by a basic understanding of what is fair for their circumstances, informed by the universal rules of golf, and repeat violators face the harshest penalty of all: banishment from the group.

—Email me at
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Rules are made to be ... completely baffling

by John Paul Newport, The Wall Street Journal

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Kenny Perry was cleared of improving a lie at the 2009 FBR Open, which he won. (Stephen Dunn / Getty Images)

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Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-bybee-memo1-2009may01,0,4424427.story>
From the Los Angeles Times

Jay Bybee silent on interrogation memos

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy has called on Bybee, now a federal appellate judge, to explain his legal reasoning on harsh treatment of detainees.

By Carol J. Williams

May 1, 2009

A federal judge who provided the Bush administration with legal advice on what constitutes torture declined to respond Thursday to a letter from the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman calling on him to explain his actions to the American public.

Judge Jay S. Bybee, of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, was head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel when he described the intensity of pain that could legally be inflicted.

The interrogation methods, including waterboarding, have been denounced by the Obama administration, human rights groups and foreign allies as illegal torture.

Bybee has kept a low profile since the memos were released by President Obama last month, breaking his silence only in an e-mail to the New York Times in which he defended his guidance on interrogating terrorism suspects as "a good-faith analysis of the law."

On Thursday, law clerks for the judge said variously that Bybee would respond to an appeal by Chairman Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee; that he would explain his reasoning in a statement to the San Francisco-based appeals court; and that he would have nothing more to say to anyone on the subject.

"My impression is that there won't be any further statements," law clerk Keith Woffinden said, apologizing for the contradictory messages being sent by staffers.

In his e-mailed statement Tuesday to the New York Times, Bybee disputed published reports quoting former law clerks and academics saying that he had privately expressed regret over his legal work for the Bush administration.

He told the newspaper that he would have done some things differently -- approaching his analysis with an eye toward helping the public better understand how he reached his conclusions -- in light of recent criticism.

The judge's justification has only fueled critics who say his reading of a U.S. statute and international accords banning torture was deliberately skewed to accommodate Bush administration officials who wanted permission to cross the legal line.

"It surprises, concerns, sickens and depresses me," Christopher Blakesley, a law professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, said of Bybee's defense of the August 2002 memos. "I am surprised that he talked at all at this point."

Blakesley said he was also "saddened because I truly believed from what I know of him over the years that he would have repudiated the memos along with all that surrounded and came from this sordid situation. Perhaps one day he will."

In the view of John Parry, a professor at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore., who has written extensively on torture, Bybee's legal reasoning was suspect and the memos "unbalanced."

"They do not consider any arguments that might detract from their conclusions, and they cite irrelevant or misleading authority," Parry said. "Perhaps worse, they fail to provide sound legal analysis. Instead, they read as if they were meant to provide cover for decisions that had already been taken."

University of San Diego law professor Shaun Martin, who follows and analyzes Western appeals courts, said he was confident Bybee wouldn't leave the bench of his own accord.

"My sense is that Judge Bybee thinks what he did was right but that it was expressed poorly. That's not something you resign over," Martin said.

Marjorie Cohn, a law professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, disagreed.

"He can't ignore it," Cohn said of the growing storm around the judge. "Bybee has liability on several different levels. There may well be criminal investigations and prosecutions, if not by the United States, by other countries."

A Spanish judge has announced a criminal investigation on behalf of foreign terrorism suspects, including five Spaniards.

Bybee, John C. Yoo and Steven G. Bradbury, all former Bush administration lawyers, are under investigation by the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

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California's prison system, what now?

Posted By [hoa.quach](#) On May 6, 2009 @ 11:19 am In [Politics & Government](#) | [2 Comments](#)



(kathycsus/Flickr Courtesy Photo)

[1] It's no secret that California's prisons are among the worst in the nation. Ten percent of the state budget, or \$14 billion a year, goes towards prison costs—the same amount of money we spend on the University of California and Cal State higher education systems. The total cost of criminal justice grew to \$25 billion a year in 2003-04 (the most recent year available), including the amounts spent by local governments on enforcement and prevention. Last month, a three-judge panel ruled that the state must reduce its prison population by one-third because of overcrowding. The system is currently at 200 percent of capacity.

What remains unclear is how California's sentencing policies exacerbate, or even cause, this immense pressure on our state. From the three-strikes law to drug sentencing laws, California's laws directly influence the state's budget—and the population of its prisons.

"We've painted ourselves into a corner," said Laura M. S. Berend, a professor at University of San Diego School of Law and former defense attorney. "We've had propositions on the ballot for 25 to 30 years that have affected criminal justice pretty dramatically, especially the initiatives on the ballot that have been written for particular cases but not thoroughly thought out as far as consequences."

The most recently passed law concerning California's criminal justice system was Proposition 9 on the November 2008 ballot. Also known as "Marsy's Law," the bill amended the state constitution to change several victims' rights laws. It requires authorities to take a victim's safety into concern when assigning bail or conducting a parole review.

The three-strikes law is now 13 years old. In 2008, there were 41,284 prisoners serving under the law, which doubles sentences for second-time felons and prescribes life sentences for third-time felons, costing the state \$500 million annually.

In addition, drug sentencing laws have become more stringent over the last two decades. Felony drug arrests make up 30 percent of all felony arrests in the state, and, in 2005,



approximately 21 percent of inmates in California's prisons were incarcerated for drug-related crime.

"The system right now is focused on punishing people," said Mayra Garcia, a private practice defense attorney who owns her own firm. "The problem is, there is not enough funding to send these people to the correct rehab that they need; they're set up to fail from the beginning."

As new laws stiffen penalties for criminal offenses, provide treatment for drug offenders, and construct new correctional facilities, the prison system's costs have steadily risen—by about 50 percent in less than a decade, according to a University of

California, Irvine study. Legislation at the ballot box has created a perfect storm of increased prisoners, decreased resources and the highest recidivism rate in the country. About 70 percent of inmates released in California will be back in jail within 24 months, almost twice the national average.

"Most of the increase in spending in criminal justice programs is due to increases in salary costs, as well as court-ordered mandates to improve parts of the prison system, such as medical care," stated a report from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). Last summer, for example, a federal judge ordered \$8 billion seized from the state treasury to pay for improvements in the prison healthcare system. Coincidentally, that's about the same amount by which the LAO recently announced California's budget deficit had grown.

"Compliance with court requirements in the three health care programs (the medical, dental and mental health programs) is expected to result in significant additional costs to the department over the next several years," the LAO report said. "These costs could eventually exceed \$1.2 billion by 2010-11."

Berend is concerned that limited budget alternatives will prevent California from enacting any significant reform, but points out the catch-22 of unsustainable costs.

"Somebody's got to do something," Berend said. "The fiscal crisis has contributed to the economic, humanitarian, and medical crises."

As the Department of Corrections approaches how best to reduce the prison population, it will have a tough time navigating the voter's mandates and existing legislation that have narrowed its options.

This is the first in a series on California's prisons. Look for upcoming articles on medical marijuana, the three strikes law, and prison overcrowding.

Gina Giacomuzzi writes for the San Diego News Room where this story originally appeared.

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- San Diego News Network - <http://www.sdn.com> -**California's three strikes law, 15 years later**Posted By [hoa.quach](#) On May 8, 2009 @ 1:58 pm In [Politics & Government](#) | [5 Comments](#)**Related Stories:**[California's prison system, what now?](#) [1]

In March, California's three-strikes law celebrated its 15th anniversary. Since its passage in 1994 by nearly three-quarters of voters, the law has become one of the most controversial and oft-mentioned in discussions over the state's prison system.

The three-strikes law was advanced by Mike Reynolds, a Fresno photographer, after his 18-year-old daughter was murdered. After one of her killers, a repeat felon, was released in nine years, her father went on the offensive. He maintains a website, www.threestrikes.org, which recently released a 15-year study quantifying the reductions in crime and lives saved as a result of three-strikes.

"Since then, there have been over 3 million fewer serious and violent crime victims and 10,000 fewer murders," Reynolds said. The study compares crime figures from 15 years before three-strikes to 15 years after, or the most recent crime numbers released (which are for 2007). "What's really astonishing is, we've seen an increase in California's population by over 50 percent, but a 50 percent decrease in crime." Reynold references other theories that attribute crime reductions to a stable economy, but points out that crime hasn't increased since the recent economic downturn— and that California's violent crime dropped at twice the national rate.



In 2004, Proposition 66 was on the ballot to limit the application of the third-strikes law to violent crimes. Prop. 66 was defeated by 52.7 percent of voters, but the three-strikes law continues to be one of the first areas of law touted for reform in discussions over high prison populations and costs. Numerous court challenges have been filed in individual cases.

"I think if people were really educated about what (the three-strikes law) means, and its consequences, in both human and economic terms, they would vote to overturn it," said Marjorie Cohn, a professor at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and former criminal defense attorney.

To Cohn, the problem with the three-strikes law exemplifies the problem with California's prison system as a whole—namely, the exclusive focus on punishment to the neglect of rehabilitation.

"California has one of the most regressive three-strikes laws in the country," Cohn said. "You're basically locking people up and treating them like animals... rather than supporting their families, where they can come out (of prison) and have some dignity." Last year, there were 41,284 prisoners serving time under the law, which requires a minimum 25-year sentence for third-time felons. Of those, 3,629 of third strikers were non-violent felons (although their first two offenses were violent felonies). Since third-strikes are often housed in maximum-security prisons, the average annual cost of housing, per person, is \$31,000. The law also doubles sentences for second-time felons. The total cost of housing prisoners serving time under the law amounts to about \$500 million a year.

"We need to revisit whether three-strikes is doing anything good... if it's fulfilled its promise," said Professor Laura M.S. Berend, a professor at University of San Diego School of Law. "We're heading towards being geriatric institutions, and just (covering) medical costs." The average cost of housing a prisoner over the age of 55 is \$50,000 a year.

Reynolds argues that, with an increase in population of only 10,000 inmates a year, there aren't as many prisoners coming in as there were before three-strikes, and that once they're released, the law may act as a deterrent for repeat felonies.

"The recidivism rate for second and third time felons is at a much lower rate," Reynolds said. He also points to an "extraordinary exodus" of inmates that have two or three strikes leaving the state.

When the law passed, the Legislative Analyst's Office called it "the most significant change to the state criminal justice system in more than a generation." A year after its passage, the LAO reported measurable increases in prosecutions, fewer guilty pleas by defendants (and subsequent increases in jury trials), a backlog of cases in the courts (and subsequent focus on criminal cases rather than civil cases), and that about 70 percent of second- and third-strikes were for nonviolent offenses.

However, ten years after the law passed, the LAO reported that it had not resulted in the expected rate of growth in prison populations, although strikers made up about 26 percent of prisoners in 2004.

"A number of factors have probably contributed to a lower prison population, including the use of discretion by judges and district attorneys to dismiss prior strikes in some cases," the report found. It did find that the average age of prisoners had gone up, and the number of inmates 50 years of age and older had tripled, attributed in part to the fact that "The so-called 'baby boom' generation is getting older, and so are the criminals of the baby boom generation."

Opponents of the three-strikes law, including Families to Amend California's Three Strikes, keep lists of felons who are serving 25 years-to-life for nonviolent or non-serious third strikes. They range from stealing a spare tire to drug possession. Cohn cites a case that went all the way to the Supreme Court, *Lockyer v. Andrade*, wherein the defendant was given two 25 years-to-life sentences for stealing nine children's videotapes, worth a total of \$153.54. Leandro Andrade's first two felonies were home burglaries. The Supreme Court upheld Andrade's sentence.

Proponents of the law say the three-strikes law has prevented a million serious or violent crimes every five years since its passage by keeping violent repeat offenders off the streets.

"Repeat offenders are already doing life on the installment plan," Reynolds said, only half-jokingly. "The question is, are you saving a lot of money when they're on these crime sabbaticals? An extraordinarily high percentage of violent crime is actually committed by a relatively

small percentage of offenders, so three-strikes dropped that down. To suggest that some poor third-striker is being unjustly sentenced... an offender that's a lifetime criminal has a rap sheet going back to childhood."

These advocates keep their own lists of criminals who would have been released on parole without the law, including repeat sex offenders, murderers, and kidnappers. A report by former California Attorney General Dan Lungren found that violent crime dropped almost 27 percent in the four years following passage of the law, with homicide dropping by 40 percent. However, the LAO report stated that, "Our survey... found that there is little consensus among researchers about the impact of Three Strikes on public safety, even after more than ten years of application."

Conventional wisdom on criminal sentencing is that the costs of imprisoning criminals (both dollar costs to the public and the human toll on the inmate) dictate that incarceration should be saved for those who present a threat to society. A criminal who serves time in prison is more likely to commit subsequent crimes, and more serious crimes, than one who does not serve a time.

The disparities between nonviolent and violent felonies—and the fact that sentences for those felonies are often similar—are measured against the larger issue of how laws are made in California, and how ballot-box measures contribute to the current backbreaking cost of the prison system.

"This is a good example of a situation where there's a high profile case, and in response to the case there are voter initiatives placed on the ballot," Cohn said. "These issues should be thoroughly considered by the legislature after hearing testimony from experts who have evidence relating to the consequences."

Gina Giacomuzzi writes for the San Diego News Room where this story originally appeared.

Article printed from San Diego News Network: <http://www.sdn.com>

URL to article: <http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2009-05-08/news/politics-city-county-government/californias-three-strikes-law-15-years-later>

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[1] California's prison system, what now?: <http://www.sdn.com/sandiego/2009-05-06/news/politics-city-county-government/californias-prison-system-what-now>

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May 11, 2009

Appeals judge might be on list for Souter's job

By Greg Moran
STAFF WRITER

The ink was barely dry on the formal retirement announcement by U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter when the lists began to circulate.

Those would be the shortlists, A-lists, even lists of lists of possible nominees that President Barack Obama could choose to fill the seat.



M. Margaret McKeown

And while it is early and much can change during the often contentious nomination and confirmation process for a justice on the court, San Diego-based Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals keeps surfacing as a possible nominee.

McKeown is based in San Diego and serves on the largest appeals cir-

► MCKEOWN

CONTINUED FROM B1

One decision involved cross on federal land

cuit in the federal system. She has her judicial chambers in the federal courthouse in San Diego.

McKeown is an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego Law School, where she has taught about the interplay between the Constitution and Internet, as well as lectured on securities law, intellectual property and employment law.

At this point, McKeown is not counted among the top tier of potential nominees. Some lists even put her behind a colleague on the 9th Circuit, Judge

Kim Wardlaw.

McKeown, who turns 58 today, has been on the court since 1998. She was initially nominated in 1996 but became involved in the battle over judicial appointments between President Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans, and her nomination did not come to

Clinton renominated her in 1997, and McKeown was confirmed by an 80-11 vote in 1998.

The judge, who was traveling last week, declined through a court spokesman to comment for this story.

McKeown is widely considered to be smart and articulate and to have deep connections in the nation's legal community. Although she serves on the circuit that is often decried as the most liberal in the nation, her views are generally seen as

SEE MCKEOWN, B3

moderate and not far left of center.

"She's very well-liked, pleasant and personable," said Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. "And I think she has a good reputation for being a good judge. If she got nominated, people would have good things to say about her."

Lists of potential candidates for one of the most powerful positions in government have to be taken with a grain of salt, Levenson said. "There's so much promotion that goes on all sides here," she said.

Obama is widely believed to be under pressure to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court, where Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is now the lone woman.

Interest groups are urging the president to appoint a person from a minority group,

which McKeown — a native of Wyoming who built a lauded legal career in Seattle — is not.

McKeown served as a White House fellow in 1981 — under President Ronald Reagan, which could also play in her favor. The fellowship program allows promising young professionals to work with top government leaders.

"She's on these lists because she is a very plausible candidate," said Shaun Martin, a professor who also teaches at USD and served as a law clerk on the 9th Circuit before McKeown's appointment.

"She's universally recognized as very smart and hard-working. If you are narrowing the focus down to women who are well-respected judges, she's in that group," Martin said.

One of the recent decisions McKeown wrote for the court

was in a 2007 case involving an 8-foot-tall cross that was part of a war memorial on federal land in the Mojave National Preserve. A federal district judge had ordered the cross removed because it violated the principle of separation of church and state under the establishment clause.

But Congress intervened and transferred the land under the cross to a private party. McKeown, on behalf of a three-judge panel, ruled that the transfer violated the lower court's order.

The facts may sound familiar to San Diego residents because it is similar to the long-running controversy involving the cross atop Mount Soledad. And the Mojave case is not over: In February, the Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal of McKeown's ruling filed by the

Bush administration. It will be one of the most closely watched cases of the court's term beginning in October.

McKeown also wrote an opinion in 2007 that allowed an Islamic charity's lawsuit against the government for secret wiretapping to go forward. However, she decided that the charity could not use in its case a confidential government document that the charity's lawyers had mistakenly been given.

McKeown said she recognized that judges needed to "defer to the executive on matters of foreign and national security." But McKeown firmly rejected the government's position that the subject matter of the litigation was itself a state secret that meant the lawsuit had to be dismissed. The suit is still pending.

Los Angeles Times

How close are we to Mandatory Conservation?

go to beWaterwise.com

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-dentist26-2009may26,0,4101156.story>
 From the Los Angeles Times

'Unfortunate error' in oral surgeon's background

Dr. Suzanne McCormick is president of the Dental Board of California. The governor's office didn't know she agreed to a malpractice settlement for taking out two wrong teeth from a 13-year-old boy.

By Michael Rothfeld

May 26, 2009

Reporting from Sacramento — Patients of Dr. Suzanne McCormick can get a glowing picture of her qualifications from the Dental Board of California, where she serves as president. They can learn that the oral surgeon teaches at Loma Linda University, lectures worldwide and has never been professionally disciplined.

What the state licensing agency will not tell consumers is that shortly before she was appointed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, McCormick agreed to a \$95,000 malpractice settlement for taking out two wrong teeth from a 13-year-old Encinitas boy.

Officials in the office of the governor, who appointed McCormick in early 2006 and gave her a new four-year term in March, said they were unaware of what she had done.

"It was a messed-up deal what she did — she made a big mistake," said Joey Rossi, now 18, who went to McCormick five years ago to have his wisdom teeth removed and lost two permanent molars instead. "People should know about this if she's the president of the Dental Board."

The mistake by McCormick, 49, who declined to be interviewed, highlights how little information is available to consumers from the agencies that are supposed to protect them. Both the dentist and the board, which took no disciplinary action against her, contributed to keeping the incident secret.

McCormick obtained a "gag clause" during settlement discussions so the boy's lawyer would not file a complaint against her with the board she would soon join, reducing the chances that she would be disciplined.

The Dental Board, which investigates misconduct against its licensees, learned of the incident when McCormick reported the December 2005 malpractice settlement to the state, as legally required. But the board keeps settlement records confidential.

Had the board sanctioned McCormick, consumers could have learned about the incident on the agency's website. But board staff, based on what they called a " cursory review," closed her case a few months after she was appointed. An outside consultant, a Northern California dentist who contacted McCormick but not Rossi or his family, concluded the matter did not warrant punishment, state officials said.

McCormick didn't interfere or receive special treatment, said Amanda Fulkerson, a spokeswoman for the Dental Board. The incident "an unfortunate error," McCormick, who state officials say has pioneered an oral surgery technique and provides dental care for poor children abroad, was recently elected president by her peers.

Today, the only public evidence of Rossi's ordeal is in a file at San Diego County Superior Court.

Fulkerson said that if the Dental Board disclosed anything about the incident or the settlement, McCormick could sue. "We want to provide as much information as possible to consumers, if the law allows for that," she said.

State boards that license nurses and social workers, who are governed by the same laws, have released malpractice settlement records upon request.

"Our policy is that sharing relevant information with consumers so that they can make decisions is part of what we do," said Paul Riches, executive officer of the Board of Behavioral Sciences in Sacramento.

Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth, who directs the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego School of Law, said taxpayers, who foot the bill for state courts, are entitled to information about malpractice cases, "especially information regarding the competence of licensed professionals."

"The boards should not be in the business of hiding information from the public," Fellmeth said.

Rossi went to McCormick after his pediatric dentist recommended removing all four wisdom teeth — which weren't yet poking out of his gums — in preparation for braces. Everything seemed to go as planned, he said. McCormick did not tell him anything was wrong until he arrived for a follow-up appointment six days later.

"She walked in and she said, 'I took out the wrong teeth,'" Rossi recalled. "She didn't really say much. She said, 'Sorry.'"

Rossi's mother, Danna Laakman, said McCormick had an "excellent reputation." But she never offered an explanation. "I looked her dead in the eye and she just admitted that she made a mistake, and she broke down crying," Laakman said.

Her son, then an eighth-grader, was "totally traumatized," she said.

Several dentists said in interviews that it was unusual to remove wisdom teeth from someone Rossi's age, and they couldn't imagine how McCormick could have mistaken permanent molars for wisdom teeth.

"I've never made that mistake, and I would say the vast majority of dentists probably have the exact same track record," said Jay Grossman, a West Los Angeles dentist who has practiced for 21 years.

Board officials said McCormick was negligent, but because it was a single instance and she had a clean record previously, nothing was done. In addition, the patient wasn't asking for discipline.

Julie Parker, Rossi's attorney, said she normally complains to state boards on behalf of clients but did not because of the gag clause.

Such provisions are illegal for medical doctors, but Schwarzenegger twice vetoed legislation that would have outlawed them for other professions.

Fellmeth said licensees use these clauses to short-circuit the regulatory process that protects the public.

"They should not," she said, "be able to deprive their regulators of information about their own misconduct."

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Dental board chief pulled wrong teeth

Published: May 26, 2009 at 2:26 PM

The head of the Dental Board of California has settled a case in which she admitted pulling the wrong teeth from a 13-year-old boy, documents indicate.

Court documents obtained by the Los Angeles Times show that shortly before she was appointed to the dental post by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006, Dr. Suzanne McCormick agreed to a \$95,000 malpractice settlement for mistakenly removing two permanent molars rather than wisdom teeth from an Encinitas, Calif., boy, the newspaper reported Tuesday.

The details of the incident were never publicly revealed by the dental board because the boy and his family agreed to a "gag clause" as part of the suit that prevented them from filing a complaint against McCormick.

The Dental Board became aware of the case when McCormick reported the settlement, but it keeps such records confidential, the Times reported. State officials said they examined the case but declined to sanction McCormick, who did not respond to calls for comment from the newspaper.

Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth of the University of San Diego School of Law said that since taxpayers foot the bill for state courts, they are entitled to information about malpractice cases, "especially information regarding the competence of licensed professionals."

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Dental board chief pulled wrong teeth

LOS ANGELES, May 26 (UPI) --

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The Washington Post

Va. Case Highlights Discord Over Releasing Abuse Data

By Jonathan Mummolo
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, May 19, 2009

When a letter from Prince William County's Department of Social Services arrived in the mail recently, Wes Byers was hoping for answers.

He wanted to know why -- despite a report he made in December 2008 of an old girl in his neighborhood appearing to have been abused -- he couldn't rescue her before she was slain the next month.

But the letter, five sentences long, didn't shed any light on Lexie's death. It said Byers's report had been investigated and that "appropriate actions" were taken, but it did not elaborate.

"I can't tell you how upsetting it is to me," Byers said. "These folks are like, 'Well, it's just another day at work.' . . . We've got a life that has passed."

The slow trickle of information to emerge about Lexie's death, and how local agencies handled her case while she was alive, highlights the secrecy that often surrounds child abuse cases, child welfare advocates said. Because of confidentiality rules that vary across the states, records related to cases involving juveniles are sometimes withheld even after a criminal investigation is complete.

If information is eventually released, it is often heavily redacted, preventing proper scrutiny of public agencies charged with protecting children, child advocates said.

Some say a federal law requires the release of records in abuse-related child deaths or near-deaths and that disclosure should be made even stronger before it is reauthorized during this session of the U.S. Congress. State and local officials in Virginia, however, say disclosure is optional in such cases. They argue that privacy rules are necessary even after a child's death to protect victims and reporters of abuse.

"Fifty-one different jurisdictions interpret [federal law] 51 different ways," said Elisa Weichel, administrative director and staff attorney with the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego School of Law. "When it reaches the point that a child incurs this kind of serious injury or death . . . the public's right to know about what's going on in these cases trumps the privacy rights of those involved."

It is unclear how much information officials will release to the public in Lexie's case. A criminal investigation into the actions of her adoptive mother, Alfreedia Gregg-Glover -- charged in her abuse and death -- is ongoing, and her trial is set for July.

"We don't want to scare away people from adopting children," said Prince William Social Services Director John P. Ledden Jr. "We also don't want to give the public the perception that we're hiding and covering up something."

Since Lexie was found dead in a Woodbridge area creek Jan. 9, several investigations have been launched.

County social services officials have completed probes into past abuse allegations, but the county attorney's office declined to release to The Washington Post nearly 400 pages of records pertaining to Lexie's case, citing the pending criminal trial. Assistant County Attorney Bobbi Jo Alexis said that it was too early to say whether any of the records would be made public after Gregg-Glover's trial.

Prince William police have been retracing their steps, re-interviewing Lexie's former bus drivers and acquaintances who made reports of abuse to see if any red flags were missed. Police Chief Charlie T. Deane said that he will be "as thorough as I can" in releasing the findings, but that he might have to withhold certain information so others aren't discouraged from reporting abuse.

The Virginia Department of Social Services is conducting a Quality Management Review of the county's social services practices, which could be completed this month but will not mention Lexie specifically. Findings of a separate probe by VDSS into Lexie's death, which began recently, would be made public upon request but with likely redactions, a VDSS spokeswoman said.

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How much the public gets to know about cases such as Lexie's depends heavily on how states interpret a federal law known as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, child law experts said. CAPTA says states must "allow for" the release of "findings or information" in child fatalities or near-fatalities caused by abuse or neglect.

Although the language is vague, advocates point to a federal policy manual published by the Administration for Children and Families -- a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which implements CAPTA -- as the definitive interpretation. The manual says states do not have discretion in releasing information, unless disclosure would jeopardize a criminal investigation.

But several states, including Virginia, have added restrictions. According to its administrative code, Virginia social services officials "may" release information upon request, including summaries of past abuse reports, and how a social services agency responded. The state can withhold information for several reasons, including if the information is likely to endanger the "physical or emotional well-being" of anyone, or if a civil court case might be compromised, the code states.

Because of such restrictions, Virginia received a C- for transparency in a report last year co-published by the Children's Advocacy Institute in San Diego and First Star, a nonprofit child welfare advocacy group.

Gregg-Glover's case is being closely followed by several people who said they told authorities that they saw Gregg-Glover drive off with Lexie in the trunk of a car, saw bruises on Lexie and found her almost naked outside her house more than once. Byers made a report after finding Lexie outside his house Dec. 2, barely dressed in the freezing cold, famished and with a head wound.

"I want to know what they did," said Nancy Frederick, Lexie's former bus driver, referring to county officials who looked into the reports she made.

Simply waiting for the facts to come out in court is not a reliable strategy, said William L. Grimm, senior counsel with the National Center for Youth Law, who has successfully lobbied for more open policies in California.

"A lot of these cases never go to trial," Grimm said. "The abusers plead them out, or the trials are delayed for so long that everybody sort of loses interest in it. . . . That's why it's so important to get the information out in the public domain."

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State Requirement Mandates Doctors Post Signs Telling Patients Who Licenses Them

Cheryl Clark, for HealthLeaders Media, May 11, 2009

California doctors will now have to post a sign or tell patients about the agency they can complain to if they're not happy with care after the Medical Board of California unanimously approved the mandate on Friday.

If unchanged after a series of regulatory hearings this summer, the requirement will take effect as early as this fall, says board spokeswoman Candis Cohen.

Physicians who have waiting rooms will have to post the following notice in 48-point type in their office waiting rooms or in an area "visible to patients on the premises where the licensee provides the licensed services:"

NOTICE

Medical doctors are licensed
and regulated by the
Medical Board of California
(800) 633-2322
www.mbc.ca.gov

Physicians who don't have waiting rooms, such as anesthesiologists or radiologists, would have to include the notice in a written statement that is signed and dated by the patient or the patient's representative stating that the patient understands the physician is licensed and regulated by the medical board.

The statement must be retained in patient medical records.

The physician also may opt to include the notice in a statement on letterhead, discharge instructions or other document given to a patient or the patient's representative, where the notice is placed immediately above the signature line for the patient in at least 14-point type.

Board officials say they need such a rule because too many patients are unaware about the existence of the board, which can investigate their complaints and may launch disciplinary actions against doctors with malpractice or other performance issues. Otherwise the patient may have no other recourse except going to an attorney.

In California, many other professions are required to post signs, such as building contractors, pest control operators, barbers, cosmetologists, and auto repair shops.

The day before the vote, the board's education committee heard objections from representatives of the California Medical Association, who said that requiring such notices does not create an atmosphere of mutual trust for the physician-patient relationship.

CMA officials told the committee that the rule would place an "additional burden on physicians," says CMA spokeswoman Amber Beck. She adds that the CMA supports "giving information to patients that is useful for them to make decisions on their healthcare needs."

James Hay, MD, the CMA's liaison to the Medical Board of California, says, "This proposed rule does not seem to me to be a worthwhile thing to foster that doctor-patient relationship." If the Medical Board is supposed to educate the public, but hasn't done it, "that's the medical board's problem," he says.

California is not the only state with a posting requirement for doctors. Texas, Kansas, Georgia, and Idaho are among other states that have similar sign rules.

If patients knew who to complain to, disciplinary actions may be more promptly taken against physicians, the board argues. Now, when the agency hears of a physician's alleged misconduct, investigators first look for court filings. "We routinely come across people who have sued doctors for malpractice but who have not filed a complaint with the Medical Board," says Julianne D'Angelo Fellmeth, who was hired as the board's Enforcement Monitor. Occasionally, the court has issued large awards against physicians after long courtroom proceedings before the medical board receives notice about the case.

A physician's failure to provide proper notice of the board's authority could come with penalties or fines, says Fellmeth, an attorney with the Center for Public Interest Law at the University of San Diego.

"Consumers have the right to know that if they do not feel that their physician is acting professionally, that the overseeing licensing agency should be informed of their concerns," says board member Mary Lynn Moran, MD. She said similar sign requirements are even required of cab drivers.

Cheryl Clark is a senior editor and California correspondent for HealthLeaders Media Online. She can be reached at cclark@healthleadersmedia.com.

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Newsmax.com

Einhorn: Drop Credit Rating System

Friday, May 29, 2009 10:06 AM

By: Dan Weil

Hedge fund superstar David Einhorn says the credit rating system should be dumped and that he is short the stock of major ratings firm Moody's.

The big rating agencies failed to warn investors of potential problems faced by mortgage- and other asset-backed securities during the credit boom.

Experts agree much of the problem is that the agencies are paid by the firms whose securities they rate.

"The truth is that nobody I know buys or uses Moody's credit ratings because they believe in the brand," Einhorn, who runs Greenlight Capital, said in a speech reported by Bloomberg.

"They use it because it's part of a government-created oligopoly and often because they are required to by law."

Einhorn points out that "even Moody's largest shareholder, Warren Buffett, has said he doesn't believe in using ratings. We are short Moody's."

Dropping the rating system could strengthen financial markets, the hedge fund manager says.

Moody's, of course, begs to differ. Company spokesman Anthony Mirenda told Bloomberg the company's work plays an "important role" in financial markets.

"Moody's opinions are a vital source of information and continue to be widely sought by market participants of all types," he says.

Others agree with Einhorn. Jerome Fons, former managing director at Moody's, and Frank Partnoy, a law professor at the University of San Diego, argued in a New York Times opinion piece that Moody's and the other biggest rating agency, Standard & Poor's, are worthless.

"No one has been more wrong than Moody's and S&P," they write.

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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ.com

MAY 23, 2009

Books on Financial Schemes

Frank Partnoy says these books on financial schemes are sure bets

1. J R

Even Bernie Madoff could have learned a few tricks from J R, the eponymous 11-year-old protagonist of William Gaddis's National Book Award-winning novel. The boy works his school's pay phone between sixth-grade classes to parlay free catalog samples and surplus Navy picnic forks into controlling stakes in major firms. "J R" has a cult following among Wall Street cognoscenti, who claim to love all of the novel's 726 almost entirely dialogue-filled pages. Do "J R" fans in the financial district get the satirical message, and dream of more than money? "Anybody can be a millionaire," quips one of Gaddis's stockbroker characters, "but a young fellow with a talent like that owes the world something, don't you think?"

2. Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds

Are crowds wise or mad? Witnesses to witch hunts, religious crusades or investment bubbles tend to vote for madness. Charles Mackay certainly did. Mackay (1814-89) compiled this treatise on a wide variety of mass delusions, including the belief in alchemy, the enthusiasm for dueling and the appetite for Nostradamus's prophecies. But the book is most memorable for its discussion of financial lunacy, such as those two infamous 17th-century bubbles, the tulip mania in Holland and the South Sea Co. frenzy in England. "Men, it has been well said, think in herds," Mackay writes. "It will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, and one by one." Some of his stories might be apocryphal, but all are entertaining, particularly the one about the poor sailor who ate a prized tulip bulb, thinking it was an onion.

3. Manias, Panics, and Crashes

Throughout his long career as a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Charles P. Kindleberger battled the dominant thinking in finance. His multi-stage theory, presented in "Manias, Panics, and Crashes," about "the instability of expectations, speculation, and credit and the role of leveraged speculation in various assets," was simple but radical. More important, it worked, and still does. First, financial innovation and technology create new opportunity (think subprime lending and derivatives, particularly credit-default swaps). Then profits are fueled by increasing credit and expanding money supply (thank you, Mr. Greenspan). People overestimate expected returns and borrow too much (ah, those AAA credit ratings). Speculation spreads until there is financial distress, and news about a bankruptcy or financial fraud leads to a panicked rush for liquidity (take your pick: Bear Stearns, Lehman, Citigroup, AIG). Regulators should heed Kindleberger's moral-hazard warning: A lender of last resort should exist, but its "presence should be doubted."

4. Once in Golconda

Many famed jewels, including the 45-carat Hope Diamond, supposedly came from the mines of Golkonda, a ruined city in southeastern India that was a 16th-century trading center and fortress for Muslim sultans. "Everyone who passed through got rich," according to legend, or at least according to John Brooks, whose misspelled version of the legendary fort city in "Once in Golconda" became his metaphor for Wall Street between the world wars. The loose policies of the 1920s Federal Reserve spurred a borrowing wave and promoted a new financial elite, described with pitiless precision by Brooks: white-mustached Jack Morgan and his "brains," Tom Lamont; the German-Jewish power brokers of Kuhn Loeb; and the infamous bucket-shop operator Jesse Livermore, known as The Boy Plunger. Unscrupulous pool managers exploited the day traders of the era, manipulating stock prices with false news until finally the game collapsed in October 1929.

5. The Panic of 1907

I recently attended the best academic conference to date on the financial crisis, titled "The Panic of 2008," at George Washington University. The allusion to the Panic of 1907 was intentional. The speakers included the authors of this excellent book. Robert F. Bruner, now dean at the University of Virginia's business school, said that the message to glean from the 1907 meltdown involves leadership. No one today could do what J.P. Morgan did, call every business leader into a room, lock the door and refuse to let anyone leave until the crisis was resolved. Instead, Bruner said, leaders must take action with what they can: "You must lead where you are: Leadership consists not in asking permission, but in acting. This is where Morgan's example is relevant today."

—Mr. Partnoy, a law professor at the University of San Diego, is the author of "The Match King: Ivar Kreuger, the Financial Genius Behind a Century of Wall Street Scandals" (PublicAffairs, 2009).

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School of Leadership and Education Sciences

THE PAPER

May 28, 2009

Social Butterfly

Non-Profit Summit Meeting Scheduled

A community meeting is taking place on Wednesday, June 3, to convene "a new kind of conversation" about non-profits in Escondido. It is titled *"The Multiplier Effect of the Third Sector: Escondido's Best Kept Secret."* Organized by an independent committee of volunteers who live or work in Escondido, this meeting is for senior staff from Escondido non-profits, board members, donors, other city leaders, and any Escondido residents interested in non-profits in this community.

Laura Deitrick, Caster Family Center on Non-Profits at the University of San Diego, and Jack Raymond, Chairman, San Diego Foundation, will give keynotes, with opening remarks by Mayor Lori-Holt Pfeiler. A panel discussion with business and non-profit leaders will help attendees learn new data about Escondido's non-profit sector, their economic and social impacts in the city, a new online forum to continue the 'conversation,' and new tools to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of these groups and their supporters.

Jack Raymond, Catherine Sanders, the North County Times, and Mi California Printing are sponsoring the event with financial or in-kind support. Taking place at the Escondido Chamber of Commerce from 8:30am to 11am on June 3, breakfast snacks will be served. The event is free. To register, call the Escondido Chamber at 760.745.2125, or email trudy@sdfoundation.org.

DAILY BUSINESS REPORT

May 8, 2009

San Diego Metropolitan

NONPROFIT INNOVATION MODELS

For those who work in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector, U.S. Banks is sponsoring an in-depth seminar and workshop on best practices organized by the **Caster Family Center for Nonprofit Research at USD**. The session will present field-tested models of how organizations throughout the nation are functioning more effectively through collaborative inter-organizational relationships or the innovative use of technology. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss these ideas in small groups with the presenters over lunch.

The seminar will feature:

- **The Children's Support Foundation of New York** - *Shared Planned Giving*
- **Pittsburgh Human Resources Collaborative** - *Shared HR Functions*
- **Council of Community Clinics** of San Diego - *Shared Purchasing*
- **USD Professor Mary McDonald** - *Mechanics of Collaboration*
- **Shakespeare Santa Cruz** - *Fundraising Through Innovative Technology*
- **Heather Carpenter and Tom Cesarini** - *Technology Tools for Increased Efficiency*

Details are at http://www.sandiego.edu/soles/documents/Working_Agenda_June5.pdf

School of Nursing

Health care: What the U.S. can learn from other countries



**Guest
Commentary**
By Anita Hunter

In the 2008 World Health Organization Health and Human Rights Strategy and the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights it is stated that every individual shall have the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services. Yet greater than 50 percent of the American people

are denied this right because of a lack of insurance or underinsurance. The escalating costs of health care, now greater than 16.8 percent of the national gross domestic product (GDP), have begun to price most Americans out of this basic right.

President Barack Obama's national health care plan can be a mechanism to provide affordable health coverage for all. But to be successful, the plan must help alleviate problems in the United States health care system that are apparent in comparisons with systems in other countries.

The International Health Policy Survey in November 2008 also found that chronically ill adults across the globe identified major differences in health care access, safety and efficiency; however patients in the United States were at the highest risk of forgoing care because of costs, medical errors, inefficiency of services and poorly organized care. These have been consistent results since 2005. In a recent speech, John Rother from the American Association of Retired Persons noted that the problems of coverage, cost and quality are converging into a "perfect storm." Overall, the United States spends 50 percent more of our GDP on health care than other countries that cover everybody, have longer life expectancies and lower infant mortality rates.

Indeed, after 15 years of health care work across four developing countries (Ghana, Uganda, Mexico and the Dominican Republic), working collaboratively with 500 advanced practice nurses, nursing students and faculty, I have found that many U.S. citizens have less access to health care and services than the poorest of the poor. There are great lessons to be learned by working in other health care systems. People everywhere have the same health problems

including diseases, infections, cancer and heart disease. But in these four countries health care is "free." The government provides for all — maybe not adequately, but it has taken the United Nations mandate to heart. These countries are providing cost efficient, responsible health care. Nurses have provided direct health care services in collaboration with the providers in these countries as equals, consulting with governmental ministers of health, building hospitals, training village health educators and fervently trying to save lives. Yet, such work in the United States for our own people is not supported.

Embracing these new models of care that are not traditional to the U.S. system can allow the public to take charge and demand its human right to medical care. Nurses who have worked in these other systems can play a vital role in this process as they have learned how to provide the best with limited means. By supporting nurses' expanded scope of practice, adequately funding public education modalities, and individualized patient and family teachings, we can prevent health problems and prevent their complications.

If 500 nurses, over 15 years, directly affected the health and human rights of more than 75,000 people in four countries, just think what the current two million practicing nurses in the United States could do for the health of the American people.

Affordable, quality, comprehensive health care is possible if nurses, especially advanced practice nurses, were supported to practice their full scope of practice. Our expertise includes providing health education, conducting physical exams to identify health status and health risks and managing health problems. We have improved the lives of children and their families and are skilled at working with culturally diverse peoples. Nurses consult with city, state and national health offices in policy development and many have served in politics. We can reduce the epidemics of obesity, type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart disease. We can stop the health crisis in the United States and make the U.N.'s human rights declaration a reality.

Hunter, PhD, APRN, FAAN, is a professor and director of master's program in the International Nursing Office, San Diego State University School of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of San Diego.

Source Code: 20090521tzc

School of Peace

May 5, 2009

Steps taken to fight flu hobble Mexican economy

By Leslie Berenstein
STAFF WRITER

As Mexico inches toward normalcy after a five-day shutdown of some government services and commerce, the government is optimistic that the swine flu outbreak is waning. But the measures taken to limit its spread could prove ruinous for the nation's already-battered economy.

Mexico's lucrative tourism industry ground to a halt, as did other sectors of the economy.

For a country reeling from more than two years of drug cartel violence, let alone the global recession, the economic fallout of the flu promises to have a farther-ranging effect

than the disease itself.

"I think the swine flu is likely to be very, very expensive," said James Gerber, an economist and director of the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University.

How expensive the damage is and how long it takes for Mexico to recover depend on how long the flu crisis lasts, experts say.

Hong Kong and Singapore suffered declines in gross domestic product of about 3 percent in 2003, the year those economies were walloped by the SARS epidemic, Gerber said. But tourism, which was an avenue for transmission of that

SEE Mexico, A2

► MEXICO

CONTINUED FROM A1

Many Tijuana restaurants remained open

disease, makes up less of the overall economic picture in both places than in Mexico, he said.

Yesterday, Carlos Cárdenas of the Tijuana travel agency Viaytur said things were finally looking up a bit after several bleak days.

"It was dead these past few days," said Cárdenas, whose office was devoid of customers late last week. "It's only today that we are returning to normal."

The agency sells airline tickets and travel packages, including to Cuba, which temporarily halted flights from Mexico. Cárdenas said yesterday that it now appears flights will resume in mid-May, allowing him to reschedule trips.

If the blow were only to tourism, which accounts for about 8 percent of Mexico's gross domestic product, that would be bad enough. But attempts to stop the spread of the flu virus have also prevented money from changing hands.

Art exhibits, dance festivals, sporting events and rock concerts have been suspended. That includes a regional under-17 men's soccer championship in Tijuana, called off by officials last week, that had promised to sell out the 13,333-seat Estadio Caliente on Wednesday and Saturday.

In Mexico City, the massive Vive Latino two-day rock festival, scheduled for the 50,000-capacity Foro Sol stadium on May

16 and 17, was postponed until late June.

Taking advantage of two Mexican holidays, May 1 and May 5, the federal government suspended nonessential government services and urged businesses to stay closed between these days, except for those providing necessities, such as grocery stores and pharmacies. However, many businesses in Baja California remained open throughout the long weekend.

Most schools, initially ordered closed until tomorrow, will now stay closed longer, which could prompt some parents to remain home with children. Universities and high schools are to reopen Thursday, but younger children will now remain out of school until Monday.

Although tourism is likely to be the economic sector hit hardest, "clearly, the internal shutdown is going to have a major impact," Gerber said. "And so the overall effect on business is going to be greater than the loss of gross domestic product, because of all the internal kinds of expenditures that are not being made."

In general, Tijuana businesses have not been as badly hit as those in the nation's capital, where restrictions on commerce have been severe. Unlike in Mexico City, where last week restaurants were ordered to do takeout business only, many Tijuana restaurants have remained open — though diners are scarce.

"We have been influenced by the influenza," quipped Francisco Ussel, manager of the high-end eatery La Diferencia, yesterday afternoon. "That's what has happened here. Sunday was OK in the morning, but

"People who did work in Mexico understood that drug violence was not a real threat for most people. What is problematic about this (flu) thing is that even on a very small scale, there is a perception that this is an indiscriminate killer."

DAVID SHIRK, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego

today it has been pretty slow."

About half the events booked for the restaurant's three meeting rooms have been canceled, Ussel said, though these have tended to be smaller events, such as business meetings.

Once a destination for north-of-the-border foodies, the restaurant sees relatively few tourists these days. Tijuana businesses have been hammered as an ongoing war between Mexico's military and drug cartels has led to violence in Tijuana and other cities.

With the flu, things have gone from bad to worse, said David Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. To top it off, on April 27 — the day the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a warning to avoid nonessential travel to Mexico — a 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck in the state of Guerrero near Mexico City.

"It's a very bad year for Mexico," Shirk said. "They just need locusts and a flood to make it complete."

The crisis has been felt not just economically but politically. Some U.S. politicians and anti-illegal-immigration groups have lobbied to close the southern border, a discussion critics say is counterproductive to international relations as future health crises are likely to

emerge.

"What you want is to foster an environment of cooperation," said Armand Peschard-Sverdrup, director of the Mexico Project with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. "These are international threats."

The U.S. has definitely been a public relations mess since the recent travel ban, Shirk said. For business travelers and companies already leery about kidnapping and crime, it has prompted a new level of caution. Last week, he said, the University of San Diego asked employees to put business trips to Mexico on hold. Other organizations and companies have done the same.

"People who did work in Mexico understood that drug violence was not a real threat for most people," Shirk said. "What is problematic about this thing is that even on a very small scale, there is a perception that this is an indiscriminate killer."

Simon Goh, regional manager of a Taiwan-based rubber molding company with an office in Chula Vista, a factory in Tijuana and clients elsewhere in Mexico, said yesterday that he is cutting back on business trips.

"I will probably still be going

to Tijuana, but I won't be traveling to any other part of the country for the time being, until I know that contagion is not a threat," Goh said.

For every canceled trip, multiple business transactions will not occur, said economist Gerber.

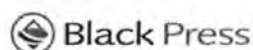
"If you put off business travel, it means you are postponing business transactions or relationships, and some of those opportunities will move elsewhere as a result," he said. "I would guess there are some business opportunities that will be permanently gone."

The best that can happen is for the remainder of the outbreak to play out quickly, experts say. If the SARS epidemic is any example, most of the economic damage should be short-lived, Gerber said.

"The harm is quick, and it's over quick," Gerber said. "The recovery from these types of epidemics tend to be very quick. This is not the type of event that will continue for a long period of time."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Tourism suffering in Tijuana



Waiter Sergio Hernandez sets a pair of shrimp fajitas ablaze at Tilly's restaurant on Revolucion Avenue in Tijuana.

Contributed

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Updated: May 25, 2009 2:57 PM

Avenida Revolucion is nearly a ghost town now, with the global economic crisis and drug cartel violence slamming the Mexican tourism industry.

With the swine flu scare, even more tourists are staying away.

On April 27, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention issued a travel alert recommending U.S. travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico.

Even before that, the U.S. State Department, for more than a year, had a travel alert in place because of Mexico's drug cartel violence.

For 37 years, the Mendez family sold crafts, leather goods, and knickknacks in six stores here, along Avenida Revolucion, a popular shopping thoroughfare for tourists in this border city.

But now, as fewer Americans visit, Andres Mendez is struggling to keep open the last of his shops, Montealban Curios.

"I used to invest about \$5,000 to \$6,000 a week in merchandise and make anywhere from \$20 to \$25,000 a week at the most profitable store," said Mendez, coordinator for Ceturmex, an Avenida Revolucion merchant association. "Last year, we had almost no profit. Now, we're almost in the red."

Similar stories float through the restaurants and other businesses along the 10-block avenue, now filled with for-rent signs.

About half of all businesses along the street have closed, according to the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Trips across the border have dropped by as much as 55 per cent since early 2008, a massive blow to a city economy that depends on tourism and commerce for more than half of its revenue.

In early 2007, Mexican President Felipe Calderon declared war on the country's drug traffickers.

The military and federal police took up a big role, and bloodshed increased as the government battled drug cartels, the cartels battled each other for territory and people within the cartels fought for leadership roles.

Since then, the drug wars have claimed about 8,000 lives in the country, according to various news reports. Tijuana, a city of two million residents, has had more than 200 homicides so far this year, although it's unclear how many can be attributed to the drug war.

But merchants, authorities and tourism officials say tourist areas are not where the violence is taking place.

"Downtown Tijuana and Avenida Revolucion are safe zones. There's a lot of security," said Juan Coronado, marketing director for the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"If there are soldiers (in those areas), it doesn't mean that there's something bad happening; it actually gives residents peace of mind."

On a recent afternoon, Gordon Hall was walking on a mostly-empty Avenida Revolucion with two friends from the area.

He says he hasn't seen many Americans lately, except for those who live in Baja.

"It's the violence, but it's also the American government telling people not to come over here because it's dangerous," said Hall, a La Jolla, Calif., art gallery director who visits about once a week.

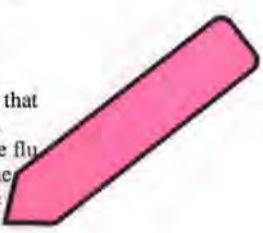
"It's the violence and our recession, both of which we caused."

Hall says that every time he talks to Americans, they ask him if it's safe to go to Mexico.

"I tell them that if they stay in the tourist areas, they're probably safe and not to worry," he said.

When the flu outbreak started making headlines a few weeks ago, some nations temporarily banned flights to and from Mexico, some U.S. and Mexican airlines waived fees for passengers who wanted to change their itineraries, and cruise lines canceled port stops.

"This is more significant, because during the drug cartel violence, there was the perception that the violence was restricted to the drug cartels. Right now, there is a perception that the swine flu virus is indiscriminate and anyone can become infected," said David A. Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at University of San Diego.



The World Health Organization is not recommending travel restrictions related to the virus.

"Scientific research based on mathematical modeling indicates that restricting travel will be of limited or no benefit in stopping the spread of disease," said the organization's Web site. "Historical records of previous influenza pandemics, as well as experience with SARS, have validated this point."

At least one major bus tour company suspended its trips to Tijuana: Coach America in Anaheim, which offers day tours to various tourist spots in Southern California and Baja California, canceled tours three weeks ago until further notice to Mexican stops, including Tijuana.

Despite the alerts, some people are traveling.

"A lot of people, like friends, said not to go, but there are cases in California as well," said Miriam Zavala, 26, of Los Angeles, who was recently aboard a bus headed to Tijuana to see her sick grandmother.

Merchant associations of Avenida Revolucion and government officials have been meeting frequently to discuss how they're doing and what they can do.

Last month, they launched the campaign "Tu eres la revolucion" ("You Are Revolution")—the first campaign that exclusively promotes the avenue to locals and Southern Californians.

Efforts by Baja California include working with a U.S. marketing firm to restore a safe image of Baja California and Mexico, so the U.S. Department of State won't renew the drug-related violence alert. In addition, more auto lanes will be available for tourists crossing into the state from the U.S.

"The economy, I think, won't be a big issue. I see it as an opportunity," said Baja California's tourism secretary Oscar Escobedo, referring to the U.S. recession. "People have less money, and since things are worth half here, it's a good thing. We're betting that this year will be a turnaround."

Mendez, the shopkeeper, plans to stay open.

"It's been almost 40 years since we started in the business. We don't want to go. We're staying," he said.

"Tijuana has given us a lot, and this time, Tijuana needs us.

"We'll stay to improve what we have to offer to tourists."

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As infamous Mexican cartel crumbles, violence grows

Posted: May 6, 2009 11:22 AM PDT

Updated: May 6, 2009 11:22 AM PDT

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press Writer

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) - In Mexico's drug war, Tijuana tells the story of a government that says it's winning, even as the battle gets bloodier.

The arrest aboard a yacht in August 2006 of Javier Arellano Felix, the boss of the Tijuana-based Arellano Felix cartel, sparked a savage war of succession - one that President Felipe Calderon moved to exploit when he took office four months later and declared war on the whole drug business in Mexico.

Tijuana's case has shown how much time, effort and blood it can take to subdue even one cartel. Eighteen months after Arellano Felix's arrest, the border city's drug lords were still fighting the army and each other to control lucrative drug routes.

Now, after daytime shootouts and beheadings - 443 murders in the last three months of 2008 alone - Tijuana is quieter. Skeptics say the lull could be only a short-term truce among traffickers. But a top Mexican army commander says the powerful gang's warring factions are spent.

"They wore each other down," Gen. Alfonso Duarte Mugica told The Associated Press. "They couldn't keep going at that pace."

To break down the country's other big cartels, Calderon is using the same strategy that put the Arellano Felix gang on the ropes. Drug violence throughout Mexico has claimed more than 10,700 lives since December 2006 - a sign, says Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora, that the government offensive is dividing and weakening drug gangs as they battle for a tightening market.

Calderon's war may never choke off the drug flow permanently. But the goal, he told the AP in late February, is to beat back the cartels by the end of his term in 2012 to a point where the army and federal police can withdraw and leave the rest to normal policing.

The fate of the Arellano Felix gang also shows that the government crackdown is changing drug trafficking in Mexico from a discreet, disciplined business to a brazen public brawl among smaller, less sophisticated criminals - leading to the bloody chaos plaguing the country.

"At least in the first two years, it hasn't led to smaller and more manageable (cartels), it's just led to smaller and more violent," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute.

When the Arellanos dominated Tijuana - as fictionally portrayed in the Hollywood movie "Traffic" - there was a sense of order in the ranks. Cartel members were recruited from wealthy families and blended easily with Tijuana's elite.

Now the four brothers who ruled it are dead or in jail, and the gang is run by Fernando Sanchez Arellano, a nephew in his 30s known as "the Engineer." He is at war with Teodoro Garcia Simental, a longtime cartel lieutenant of roughly the same age who broke away a year ago in a street shootout that killed 14 gang members.

Other long-established gangs - from the **Sinaloa** cartel based in the northwestern Mexican state of the same name, to the Gulf cartel based near the Gulf of Mexico - are adding to the mayhem by openly battling for the Tijuana gang's once-secure cocaine and marijuana turf.

The Engineer's rival, known as "El Teo," is now allied with the **Sinaloa** cartel, according to an army document dated February.

El Teo and the Engineer are hardly the leaders of the 1990s, when Mexican cartels took over from Colombians as U.S. drug enforcement in the Caribbean and south Florida pushed drug routes to the U.S.-Mexico border.

In those days Ramon Arellano Felix was the enforcer who rode Harley-Davidson motorcycles and killed people for kicks. Benjamin Arellano Felix was the reserved businessman who dressed conservatively and, according to a 2003 federal indictment in San Diego, "had the ultimate decision-making authority."

The Arellanos killed anyone who stepped on their California-Mexico border turf, aided by corrupt Mexican officials.

Their "chief enforcer" in the city of Mexicali, according to a U.S. indictment, was Armando Martinez Duarte, a former federal police official.

Yet the brothers tried to avoid violence in public, typically dissolving bodies in drums of chemicals or burning them in the desert, said John Kirby, a former U.S. prosecutor who co-wrote the 2003 indictment.

"Benjamin wanted things to be quiet," Kirby said. "He didn't want a bunch of bodies being thrown in the street." Their business attracted some of Tijuana's most prominent families.

Alejandro and Alfredo Hoyodan, San Diego-born sons of a Tijuana electrical contractor, joined Ramon at the best nightclubs and street parties. Their mother, Cristina Palacios, recalled that Ramon was wearing a mink coat and shorts the first time she saw him in 1987. Ramon always paid for the beer, and soon the sons joined his operation.

Alejandro was 35 when he went missing in 1997. Alfredo, 36, is in a Mexican prison. Palacios paused when asked what drew her sons to Ramon. "I think it was the adrenaline," she said.

But public acceptance of the Arellanos evaporated in 1993, when Ramon and a crew seeking to assassinate a rival killed Roman Catholic Cardinal Juan Jesus Posadas Ocampo in the Guadalajara airport - a case of mistaken identity.

Meanwhile, Mexican and U.S. drug enforcement officials chipped away at the leadership. In 2002, Mexican authorities killed Ramon in a shootout in Mazatlan and, a month later, captured Benjamin, who remains in a Mexican prison.

After Benjamin's arrest, a key lieutenant already in custody opened up to U.S. authorities, according to David Herrod, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent who pursued the brothers for nearly 20 years.

Arturo "Kitty" Paez, who in 2001 became the first Mexican drug trafficker to be extradited to the U.S. under a landmark Mexican Supreme Court ruling, gave authorities "the break we needed" to build a case against Benjamin and other top leaders, Herrod said in a public lecture last year.

He also helped lead them to the new boss, Javier, the youngest of the 11 Arellano Felix children. U.S. authorities intercepted radio communications of at least 1,500 kidnappings under Javier's reign, with most of the victims' bodies dissolved in acid, Herrod said. U.S. authorities say Javier had a drug-smuggling tunnel dug under the border that was longer than seven football fields.

To capture Javier, the DEA planted a transponder under a yacht he used while it was at a Southern California dealership, said David Bartick, his attorney.

The DEA persuaded the Coast Guard to watch the yacht for six weeks, Herrod said. The American cutter had finished its duty and was two hours up the coast when word arrived that Javier had left Mexican waters. By the time the cutter returned, its target was barely a mile beyond the 12-mile limit, making it legal to intercept the vessel. Javier pleaded guilty to drug charges in San Diego and was sentenced to life in federal prison.

The cartel baton passed to the Engineer, about whom little is known. Only in January did the DEA release its first photos of the Engineer and El Teo. The two rivals battled in a shootout that began on a major Tijuana boulevard early one Saturday morning. The army says the Engineer called a meeting to order El Teo to stop kidnappings and executions; El Teo didn't show.

The split resulted from "a lack of leadership," said Duarte Mugica, who commands more than 2,000 troops in Tijuana. "It's very likely that the Engineer didn't command respect or legitimacy."

In the ensuing war, 12 corpses were dumped near a school in September, most either without heads or without tongues. Nine more headless bodies were found in an empty lot in December. The heads of three police officers were found with their credentials stuffed in their mouths.

Duarte Mugica says the warring factions are increasingly recruiting minors because they can't find experienced criminals.

Some are paid only \$400 a month to guard homes where kidnap victims are held.

The Arellano Felix cartel continues to suffer setbacks. Eduardo Arellano Felix, the last of the founding brothers, was captured in October. Other allegedly key operatives were arrested last year - Saul Montes de Oca as he prepared for the Baja 250 off-road race, and Gustavo Rivera in the beach resort of San Jose del Cabo.

El Teo's camp is also in trouble; a suspected hit man and former Rosarito police officer, Angel Jacome Gamboa, was among 60 people detained in a Tijuana ballroom in March.

In January, the army raided a three-day party and captured Santiago Meza Lopez, who confessed to dissolving 300 bodies in vats of liquid over the previous year under El Teo's orders. Duarte Mugica said El Teo and two top deputies escaped to the beach five minutes before troops arrived.

The general says the Arellano Felix cartel is divided and weakened - but stops short of saying it is finished.

"It is all part of our strategy to create division," he said, "to create mistrust among themselves."

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- San Diego News Network - <http://www.sdn.com> -**Blood of Their Brothers: The Border Trilogy, Part I**Posted By [joseph.pena](#) On May 15, 2009 @ 2:35 pm In Lifestyle, Local News, Mexican Border, News | 3 Comments(Photos by [Sergio M. Fernandez](#) ^[1])

[2]

Rosarito police chief Jorge Montero (Photo by Sergio Fernandez)

EVENING WAS STRETCHING OUT against the sky when Valente Montijo-Pompa - the 60-year-old chief of police of Rosarito - sent his bodyguard for a cold six-pack, one beer for each man at headquarters. The day had been hot, and he was already tired. It was June 20, 2006, and the veteran of four decades of police work was easing into his second year as *director de seguridad*. None of his experience had prepared him for what was to come.

Four of the men at headquarters disappeared in the hour that followed the dispatch of that beer runner. Their tortured bodies wouldn't be found until the following day. The men's severed heads were dumped 20 kilometers north, near state police headquarters in Tijuana.

A former rancher with a quiet and imperious bearing, Montijo-Pompa was gently sliding down the backside of his life's arc when he found himself, on that ill-fated afternoon, desperately feeding bullets into the magazine of an AR-15 rifle. Not knowing the fate of his men, he threw the weapon into the back of a police car, reached for another and prayed (to a God he hadn't invoked in years) the situation wasn't as dire as his gut said it was. Miles away, with a menacing convoy of SUVs speeding by, a tire-shop owner was forced to lower his shingle at gunpoint. In another part of town, on the side of a dirt road, an apparent federal agent approached a local policeman.

Before the cop could react, the agent produced a handgun. Squeezing a worn trigger with a Sinaloa-born finger, he sent a single round through the cop's lower jaw. The business end of the weapon was likely nuzzling the officer's chin, Montijo-Pompa says. The shot tore a hole in the patrol's roof, carrying gray matter and 38 years of Catholic devotion heavenward. A ray of light sliced into the cab in the stillness that followed, giving life to dust particles kicked up by the commotion. On the other side of town, an eight-months-pregnant mother rubbed her bulging belly, watching similar particles dance through the air as she cleaned house and waited for her husband's return.

Montijo-Pompa had assumed command of Rosarito's police department in June 2005, as Mexico's morass of internal strife was blossoming into a civil war. He was one of the few men to put his name into the hat when his predecessor, Chief Carlos Bowser-Miret, was assassinated with an AK-47 assault rifle (the calling card of the Tijuana Cartel, a.k.a. the Arellano-Felix Organization, AFO). Montijo-Pompa, who was voted out of office months after the June 2006 slayings, says he originally took the position as a personal favor to Mayor Antonio Macias-Garay, a young and flashy product of Baja California's reigning Partido Acción Nacional (PAN).

Under Montijo-Pompa's mandate, the year following Bowser-Miret's murder was filled with peace in Rosarito, days of living velvet. The town was again in consonance with itself. Tourism was up, crime down and the chimera of security restored - until that torrid afternoon in June 2006. A pale horse appeared that day, bringing with it a wrathful night for three street cops - and a civilian - caught unawares in the firing lines of a society at war.

Related story: Killings of 4 Americans in Tijuana sow fear ^[3]

"I kept Rosarito clean and peaceful," Montijo-Pompa says, "because I wasn't going after these mafia guys. I had a red carpet for them. I'm going to be peaceful to you, and you're going to be peaceful to me. That was the agreement. I put it in the newspapers, on TV, on the

radio, on everything.

"I didn't want any kind of action in Rosarito - nothing. I didn't want them throwing bodies here, or the shootings or kidnappings. Nothing like that. *You have the boulevard, the Scenic Highway, anywhere you want to transport ... that's not my problem.* I didn't have people, guns or investigation sources. I didn't even know these guys - who they were or why I was fighting them.

"I'm not going to fight with somebody whose circumstances are 1,000 to my one. I'm not going to be a hero - to kill my people. I'm not going to sacrifice others or convert Rosarito into a battleground or put innocents in the middle. My problem was to keep my guys off their back - because easily 80 percent of my cops were crooked themselves.

"We know we're just a passing point to Tijuana - loads and loads of contraband go through here every day, every hour. So my crooked police stop the trailers, the cars, everything - and they go for money. They're gonna take \$2,000 or \$10,000 or even \$40,000; whatever. But these mafia guys are gonna be back. And who's gonna pay?

"They're gonna start with the mayor and the police chief, and then you're gonna be in a real fight, because you're not gonna be able to respond. When they kidnapped my three boys, there were 200 of them, all of them with the best equipment on the market. What can I do when I've got 15 guys available? And they have old Beretta handguns?"

IN 2003, I MOVED TO ROSARITO on a reporting tip from a convicted human smuggler. The following five years afforded me a bottom-up picture of Mexico's organized-crime paradigm, by way of a group of wily and dentally challenged expatriate American traffickers (a strange brood that had escaped to the less-restrictive climes of Baja California). The cop beheadings happened midway through my time there, and they didn't add up. Why did the mafia kill three municipal officers, men who were powerless to investigate its transgressions? And who was the fourth victim, the Mexican-born American citizen who had no apparent reason for being in Rosarito?

The answers to those questions have been hindered by the bad newspaper coverage of organized crime in Baja California. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* often repeats the official line given by police representatives on each side of the border. Reporters from Tijuana's dailies are scared to dig much deeper than that; three editors from the muckraking journal *Zeta* have been assassinated since 1988. And as a law enforcement source I call "Buford Pusser" assures me, editors of Tijuana's major dailies were on the payroll of the Tijuana Cartel in the past.



[4]

A Rosarito police officer (Photo by Sergio Fernandez)

In 2007, U.S. federal sentencing statements confirmed that Javier Arellano-Felix - the then-head of the AFO (who was captured in international waters off Baja California) - ordered the decapitations. But authorities still couldn't explain what a 31-year-old civilian named Rodolfo Masforroll was doing at the Rosarito police station or why the AFO wanted him dead. Rumors and theories were ban died about, but as is often the case in Mexico, the next high-profile crime pulled the story off the media radar and out of the public consciousness.

Baja authorities said that though they had no leads on Masforroll, the explanation for the slayings was simple: Rosarito officers interrupted a cartel party at a local ranch. *Zeta* (widely viewed as the only outlet in town with an honest perspective) suggested cops went to the party one too many times looking for bribe money. Another theory held that Masforroll was a DEA or even CIA operative, working against (or possibly with) the AFO. In the months following the slayings, violence flared across Mexico, and bodies piled up in Baja. But Rosarito

didn't hit the international wires again for almost two years.

Jorge Montero, a former captain in Mexico's army (and a Mexican special forces vet), took the reins of the town's police department at the beginning of December 2007. Weeks later, an 18-man cartel commando came gunning for him. The team stormed police headquarters in broad daylight, killing one of Montero's bodyguards and wounding another. Only one member of the assault team has been arrested, and he was a Rosarito cop. It's widely believed the majority of men on that commando raid were Montero's police.

The event made for headline fodder on both sides of the border and was a pointed reminder that corruption have become so closely tied in Mexico it's hard to separate them. Montijo-Pompa says systematic graft dates back to the Spaniards, when the indigenous tribes who fought the Europeans were eradicated, and sycophants and thieves took over. By the 20th century, he says, corruption had become ingrained in the cultural fabric.

Dr. David Shirk, the head of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute, demurs. The TBI studies Mexico's judicial system and its challenges, and Shirk says corruption there is merely the reflection of a weak judicial system. According to TBI statistics (which closely match the numbers of law specialist Dr. Dante Haro of the University of Guadalajara), little more than 1 percent of crimes in Mexico are successfully prosecuted. Those figures come from an assumed mass of all crimes called the *cifra negra*. It's impossible to tally the country's universe of transgressions, Shirk says, so researchers, needing that theoretical base, construed the "black statistic."

"Somebody is stealing a quarter out of my ashtray at home right now, and I'll never know about it," Shirk says. "Or somebody steals my bike and it only cost me \$20 at a yard sale ... I'm not going to report it to authorities. They're part of that black universe of crimes we'll never know about. Murder, on the other hand, has a very high incidence of reporting. All of them together compose the *cifra negra*."

Researchers say only 25 percent of crimes are reported in Mexico. That contrasts with 65 percent in the United States. Mexicans clearly don't trust their police. Of that 25 percent, authorities develop suspects in about one out of five cases - only 4.6 percent of total crimes. About a third of those are then brought to trial: 1.6 percent of the *cifra negra*.

A high-level source in Mexico's attorney general's office, the PGR (Procuraduría General de la República, the nation's preeminent security agency), tells me Shirk's numbers are right on - but his conclusion is off. Montijo-Pompa is right, the source says, corruption in Mexico is cultural.

"If you grow up in a system of corruption, one that is based in corruption, how do you know anything but corruption?" she says. "The problem is education. We need to show officials and police there is another way."

She talks of a contemporary atmosphere of virtual impunity for killers. Beginning in the mid-20th century, she says, and escalating with cocaine in the 1970s, the Mexican government - mainly through the PGR - controlled the country's organized-crime network. It was the government that officiated in criminal disputes and apportioned *plazas* - areas of influence and drug-thoroughfare, the rights to which were leased by crime syndicates. It's not that cartels didn't kill 30 and 40 years ago, she says; they just did it quietly - with the cooperation and pacifying oversight of the government.

Her story was echoed by claims that several law enforcement officials in Baja California made to me, and it parallels statements made by Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, a jailed drug baron known as Mexico's Godfather. Gallardo told Mexico's *La Jornada* newspaper in February that in the 1980s it was the PGR that doled out *plazas* in Mexican territory.

A source at Los Pinos, Mexico's White House, tells me President Felipe Calderon has dismantled the old system of government-mafia pacts and severed communication with organized crime. Ironically, the source says, that might be one of the factors driving the bloodshed. To put pressure on the government and force it back to the negotiating table, the mafiosos have begun targeting the civilian population with bloodletting and terror. Nothing demoralizes the public more quickly than killing its police chief or beheading its officers, and nothing affects the immediate policy of a government more than a terrified citizenry.

BUFORD PUSSER holds a sensitive position with Baja California's judiciary and acts as liaison to the Mexican army. Before that, he held a high post in Tijuana's beleaguered police department. He needs two hands to count the number of his friends who have been assassinated, and he stoically recounts two attempts on his own life. In 2007, I asked him why the AFO had killed those Rosarito cops so gruesomely - and if Montijo-Pompa had something to hide (as another police source indicated). Pusser told me he thought the former chief was clean but peripherally responsible for the death of Adrian Masforrolli - who, he said, had to be one of the unluckiest men in North America.



[5]

Mexican police on patrol in Tijuana (Photo by Sergio Rodriguez)

According to Pusser, in the months leading up to the killings, Montijo-Pompa took up a private collection to clandestinely buy weapons for Rosarito's police department. The former rancher collected between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and sent two officers to a Phoenix gun show to buy AR-15s (semiautomatic M-16s). As non-U.S. citizens, the Rosarito cops couldn't buy weapons in Arizona, so they found Masforrolli - who worked construction and had crossed into the States years before, eventually achieving legal status - and convinced him to help. The Mexican immigrant went to the show and bought a half-dozen rifles.

The Rosarito cops went back to Masforroll's house, dismantled the weapons, hid the parts in a vehicle and drove home - their mission a success. Weapons in hand, and satisfied with the operation, the chief sent his men back to the United States a month later for more. They recontacted Masforroll and returned to the gun show - where they suspected they were being tailed. After procuring the weapons, the trio returned to Masforroll's house. There, a task force of ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) agents, FBI and local cops pounced on them.

The Rosarito officers were lucky - they were merely sent home. Masforroll was charged with a class-four felony. During the booking process, Phoenix cops realized his paperwork wasn't in order; he wasn't a citizen at all. With the felony charge still standing, Masforroll was deported to Mexico. It had been years since he'd lived in his native country, and he didn't know where to turn. Rosarito officers rented him an apartment, with a promise to get him back across the border.

He began spending afternoons with Montijo-Pompa's best cop, an officer named Ismael Torres Arellano (no connection to the cartel). Torres was on disability leave, and on the afternoon of June 20, 2006, he left his wife at home - with a baby two weeks from birth - and took Masforroll to police headquarters, where the two men found themselves in the tragically wrong place at the wrong time.

Until Police Chief Bowser-Miret's murder, the town's first high-level assassination, Rosarito was viewed as an insignificant satellite of the mafia-ridden Tijuana, not worth the AFO's attention. To calm nerves, Mayor Macias-Garay turned to longtime cop Montijo-Pompa, his old friend. After being appointed, the new chief realized Rosarito's police department had no automatic rifles - an oddity for a municipality that just 10 years before had been part of Tijuana, one of the country's most violent *plazas*.

The Mexican army, which controls all firearms in the country, is fiercely guarded about automatic weapons, Montijo-Pompa says. It's been less than 100 years, after all, since Mexico's last bloody revolution. In 2005, the wait time for an AR-15 order was two to three years, and the former rancher knew he would likely be out of office before his weapons order arrived at headquarters.

Related stories

[San Ysidro celebrates 100 years of border legacy](#) [6]

"Do you understand that policemen in Mexico have to get down on their knees and beg for a single bullet?" he asks. "While it is nothing for the narcos to go practice with 3,000 rounds for their AK-47s."

[Once-hot Baja surf spots falling dormant](#) [7]

Current chief Montero says there's a deeper explanation for the dearth of weapons: Mayor Macias-Garay was up to his ears in the AFO and didn't want to arm his own officers, who might then war with the men lining his pockets. The word on Rosarito streets is that the former mayor had, and continues to have, tight ties with the Arellanos - and that he became a millionaire during his three years in office. Records show he owns several properties in Southern California, as well as a development company. His salary as mayor was \$30,000 a year. (Though I interviewed him in late 2006, he's ignored numerous attempts to contact him for this article.)

[Tijuana Estuary suffocated by silt and sewage](#) [8]

Local lore says the city attorney under Macias-Garay, a man named Juan Esquivel-Fiero (who is the head of a five-brother political dynasty in Rosarito), was also complicit with the AFO. In 2004, I went to see his brother, Alberto, who was then a subcommander in Rosarito's police department and a friend of an American who went by the alias Big Brother (a former human smuggler who was one of my primary sources). Big Brother said the mafia ran Rosarito and that the city's government was thoroughly mixed up with it (a claim that seemed dubious at the time, as the pueblo still carried the tenor of an idyllic beach town).

When Big Brother disappeared in 2004, I went to see Alberto - a corpulent, light-skinned man of 34, with a thick, black mustache. He said he had gone to high school in the United States, and his English was decent. After a couple of meetings, he told me Macias-Garay wanted to promote him. Then he asked me to help him find a security guard job in the United States. The incongruity - a bright career outlook in Rosarito versus his desire to flee north - became more muddled when he told me he feared for his life and his family.

"I now have a heart condition," he said. "The stress is making my heart bad. If I don't leave here soon, I will die."

"How many people live in Rosarito?" I asked.

"About 85,000."

"And how many murders were there here last year?"

"Sixteen," he said.

That same year, I interviewed then-Police Chief Carlos Bowser-Miret. When I asked him about Alberto's fear for his life, he shrugged it off, saying many people were scared in Rosarito. We talked about human smuggling, and I told him one of my sources had said that he, Bowser-Miret, was connected to the cartel. He laughed that off but agreed to meet again. If I was looking for organized crime, he said, I should check the background of Juan Esquivel-Fiero.

When Bowser-Miret was assassinated, months later, Alberto - one of his immediate subordinates - was named as a suspect; Bowser-Miret had recently quarreled publicly with Alberto's brother Juan. Alberto was later cleared, but he left the police department. Juan maintained his post until PAN was voted out in 2007. All of which, by mere association, has darkened Montijo-Pompa's reputation - a case that illuminates the great challenge of contemporary Mexican cops. With so many corrupt brothers-in-arms, and when *la mordita* ("the bite," or bribe) has become a way of life for so many, who can be trusted?

"I can go with you to the church and show you," the former chief says. "See, on my hands - nothing. Not a penny. Never. The problem is, when you start biting the money, when you make the first bite, that's when you are through - with everything. You are through with yourself, your career, your name, your family - everything. Because once you take the bite, they own you."

At the same time, he says, there's little wonder so many cops go bad. It's not as if they have to kill people or even carry drugs. Often, it's as easy as turning one's head at a certain time or offering obscure information when needed, trivial obligations that earned serious money for Rosarito cops who were taking home \$900 a month in 2006 - and who, in many cases, had gone into debt during six months of unpaid academy training. (Police in Mexico have no benefits, health insurance or pensions.)

"This guy comes out of the academy hungry and broke," Montijo-Pompa says, "with a wife and kid depending on him; with a mortgage, furniture rental and the loan he took from his brother. And the first car he stops, a guy offers him \$40 instead of taking a ticket. It doesn't take long to realize that if he wants to make \$200 a day or even \$500, it's possible - it's only a matter of how much he wants to play the game."

"And what happens if today is my last day?" he asks. "Once I finish, I go and take back my gun and my uniform. I don't have any kind of

retirement package or medical service, no farewell, no goodbye ... nothing. *Go and take care of yourself.* Can you fulfill that obligation? Can you live with 100 or 1,000 enemies in the streets, waiting for you? How far can you go? If I've got the money, I have to move from here tomorrow. What am I going to do, sell my house every day for the rest of my life?"

MOST OF MEXICO'S COPS, like Montijo-Pompa and Montero, are *policia preventiva* - they can stop a crime in progress. But if it happens before they arrive on the scene, it's out of their hands. At that point, it moves on to the state-level PGJE (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado). According to the Mexican constitution, only state- and federal-level authorities - 25 percent of the country's police force - have powers of investigation.

It didn't take the bad guys long to figure out that that if an investigation could be stalled on a PGJE investigator's desk, it was as good as closed - which has left the country's investigators facing the Mexican choice of *plata o plomo* (silver or lead) for decades. As a result, loyalties at the PGJE and the PGR are among the most mercurial in Mexico. And the violence has metastasized in the past 20 years - now even municipal cops live in fear.

Montijo-Pompa says he was 99 percent sure he would be killed during his tenure as chief - and I was, too. In Mexico, death has become as capricious - and as meaningless - as those dancing particles of Sonoran dust. After five years in the front row, watching the country's civil war (a conflict fomented by and underwritten with U.S. drug demand) and the steadily climbing body count, I've come to see the slayings of June 20 and events like them - the multi-ton drug busts, assassinations and three-hour shootouts - as small acts in an expansive, though largely accidental, ruse. Bit parts in a giant sleight-of-hand that's been used to distract two willfully misled republics from the real story: the steady and uninterrupted flow of banned substances (cocaine chief among them) and undocumented immigrants.

The first human flaw - one as old as the Garden and as deep as the collective unconscious - wasn't knowledge, after all, but the greed to have that knowledge at whatever cost. And with hundreds of billions of narco- and narco-defense dollars at stake in this, the age of über-capitalism and exaltation of the greed factor - where the demoralizing effects of terror have emasculated binational journalism - hard truths have taken a back seat to self-interest and expediency. And special interests on both sides of the border - American big business and upper-level Mexican organized crime - are reaping huge profits off the chaos. The honest and valiant of Mexico, meanwhile, are being sacrificed en masse to the machinations of artifice and the inexorable demands of the market.

Part II of The Border Trilogy, "All the Dead Heroes," examines the lives - and despair - of a pair of honest Mexican cops. The country's mutating mafia structure and a perfect storm of conflicting factors have led to an unprecedented spike in bloodshed and prompted serious comparison with 1990s Colombia, all of which reached a crisis pitch in Rosarito on June 20, 2006.

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Tucson Citizen

Border agent skeptical of outbound inspection program

The Associated Press

Published: 05.15.2009

NOGALES - Federal agents tap on car windows, opening trunks, looking in vain for contraband.

"We're sucking up a lot of exhaust out here," supervisory Customs and Border Protection officer Edith Serrano says, shrugging in her uniform.

This is what the Obama administration's new commitment to help Mexico fight its drug cartels looks like.

President Obama this spring promised his Mexican counterpart, Felipe Calderón, that the United States would fight two of the biggest contributions U.S. residents make to the drug cartels Calderón has vowed to eradicate: cash and weapons, the latter hard to come by in Mexico.

For the past five weeks, hundreds of agents participating in a newly intensified \$95 million outbound inspection program have been stepping into southbound traffic lanes, stopping suspicious-looking cars and trucks.

The Associated Press fanned out to the busiest crossings along the Mexican border - San Diego, Nogales, El Paso and Laredo - to see how effective the inspections are.

The findings? Wads of U.S. currency headed for Mexico, wedged into car doors, stuffed under mattresses, taped onto torsos, were sniffed out by dogs, seized by agents and locked away for possible investigations. No guns were found as the reporters watched; they rarely are.

"I do not believe we can even make a dent in (southbound smuggling) because that assumes the cartels are complete idiots, which they're not. Why in the world would they try to smuggle weapons and currency through a checkpoint when there are so many other options?" said Border Patrol Agent T.J. Bonner, president of the agents' union.

According to CBP, between March 12 and April 30 officers seized:

- Fifty-one pieces of ammunition, weapons parts and guns, a minuscule fraction of the 2,000 weapons the Mexican government estimates are smuggled south every day.
- \$12 million in cash, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the \$17 billion to \$39 billion the U.S. Justice Department estimates is illegally sent to Mexico from the U.S.

III

annually, but more than the \$10 million seized in outbound checks in 2008.

- Sixty-one people on charges involving weapons or currency offenses and on outstanding warrants.

Millions of cars pass into Mexico from the United States every year. The federal government doesn't keep track but a count by Texas A&M International University's Texas Center for Border Economic and Enterprise Development shows more than 27 million vehicles a year drove into Mexico just from Texas.

The outbound checkpoints the AP observed stopped sometimes 1 out of 4 cars, sometimes 1 out of 100, and not every day. Even that amount created huge traffic backups at some locations and, agents said, might have allowed spies to call any smugglers heading that way and warn them to put off their Mexico trip.

Agents across the border said the first few minutes of their operation are the most precious. That's how long it takes for "scouts" watching from a bridge in San Diego lined with taxis to radio ahead to smugglers to stay away. In Nogales, a dozen men dashed along a Mexican hill about 150 yards from the checkpoint last week.

"We tend to see spotters up there," said CBP agent Brian Levin. "They sit up on those hills and watch everything we do."

Inspectors retreat, then mount another "surge" after a while standing on the side of the freeway.

Some of those stopped were sanguine, others annoyed.

"I guess they think I have drugs or something," said Daniel Saucedo, a 15-year-old Albuquerque high school student who clambered out of the passenger side of a small white pickup truck with his two dogs last week in El Paso. "It's dumb," he said.

William Molaski, port director in El Paso, said agents at his four El Paso bridges haven't found much since the focus on outbound checks started in early April - one handgun and only about \$400,000 - "but not for lack of trying."

Without providing any numbers, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told attendees at the Border Trade Alliance International Conference on April 21 that, just a few weeks into the intensified outbound inspections, she was amazed at how much had already been seized. "It's unbelievable," she said. "So the notion that there wasn't a river of cash and a flood of guns going into Mexico is a myth. I mean, there was. We want to stop that river."

CBP's 2010 budget request, released May 7, includes an additional \$46 million specifically targeted at southbound enforcement.

Customs inspectors' techniques range from primitive to high-tech, with about an equal success rate. Sometimes a small white truck drives slowly alongside vehicles that have been pulled over, beaming X-rays at them to reveal hidden cash or weapons. A smaller X-ray unit scans spare tires or pieces of luggage, a hand-held density meter called a "Buster" can reveal hidden compartments loaded with cash, a fiber-optic scope snaked

into gas tanks looks for hidden cargo and trained dogs can sniff out cash or weapons.

But before they get to any of the gadgets, officers knock with a knuckle or flat palm on a car's body panels. And they ask, again and again: "Do you have any weapons? Cash? Merchandise?"

Often the dogs make the finds.

Grill, a "currency canine," smelled something on 63-year-old Isabel Ortega Garcia on April 3 in Hidalgo, Texas, when Ortega was walking into Mexico. When Grill got excited, agents patted Ortega down and found \$148,000 in neat wads of \$100 bills taped around her waist.

Two weeks earlier in Laredo, Akim sniffed cash under the floor of a southbound bus. Under the seats, in a hidden compartment, were 75 bundles of bills totaling \$2,997,510.

But even finding that much cash doesn't always yield an arrest. Without a U.S. attorney's say-so, the best an agent can do is seize any cash amounts over \$10,000 that the traveler does not declare, hand them a receipt and send them on south.

The best case scenario for agents who seize undeclared currency is that federal prosecutors decide to bring charges and begin a forfeiture procedure. But often it is a race against the clock as inspectors on the scene try to collect enough evidence to make it an attractive case for prosecutors.

Obama said while campaigning that he favored a ban on sales of assault weapons. But Congress isn't budging on the issue, and guns in the U.S., particularly in southern border states, remain easy to buy legally.

"The real issues of assault weapons and bulk cash do not initiate at the border and cannot be solved there," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute. "But gun control? That's a discussion the current administration is reluctant to wade into."

Mexican customs inspector Ricardo Briseno, 27, says the increase in U.S. inspections of Mexico-bound cars has made his job easier, even though the only effective solution would be to stop every car.

"At least it's something," he said. "We are working together on a shared problem."



Saturday, May 9, 2009

Big trouble on Tijuana's main drag: Few Americans

As U.S. travelers avoid
Mexico as a destination,
Tijuana tourism suffers.

By ROSALBA RUÍZ and DENISSE SALAZAR

The Orange County Register

TIJUANA – Avenida Revolución is nearly a ghost town now, with the global economic crisis and drug cartel violence slamming the Mexican tourism industry. With the swine flu scare, even more tourists are staying away.

On April 27, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a travel alert recommending U.S. travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico. Even before that, the U.S. State Department, for more than a year, had a travel alert in place because of Mexico's drug cartel violence.

For 37 years, the Mendez family sold crafts,

leather goods, and knickknacks in six stores here, along Avenida Revolución, a popular shopping thoroughfare for tourists in this border city.

But now, as fewer Americans visit, Andres Mendez is struggling to keep open the last of his shops, Montealbán Curios.

"I used to invest about \$5 to \$6,000 a week in merchandise and make anywhere from \$20 to \$25,000 a week at the most profitable store," said Mendez, coordinator for Ceturmex, an Avenida Revolución merchant association. "Last year, we had almost no profit. Now, we're almost in the red."

Similar stories float through the restaurants and other businesses along the 10-block avenue, now filled with for-rent signs.

About half of all businesses along the street have closed, according to the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau. Trips across the border have dropped by as much as 55 percent since early 2008, a massive blow to a city economy that depends on tourism and commerce for more than half of its revenue.

VIOLENCE: PERCEPTION AND REALITY

In early 2007, Mexican President Felipe Calderón declared war on the country's drug traffickers. The military and federal police

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took up a big role, and bloodshed increased as the government battled drug cartels, the cartels battled each other for territory and people within the cartels fought for leadership roles.

Since then, the drug wars have claimed about 8,000 lives in the country, according to various news reports. Tijuana, a city of two million residents, has had more than 200 homicides so far this year, although it's unclear how many can be attributed to the drug war.

But merchants, authorities and tourism officials say tourist areas are not where the violence is taking place.

"Downtown Tijuana and Avenida Revolución are safe zones. There's a lot of security," said Juan Coronado, marketing director for the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau. "If there are soldiers (in those areas), it doesn't mean that there's something bad happening; it actually gives residents peace of mind."

On a recent afternoon, Gordon Hall was walking on a mostly-empty Avenida Revolución with two friends from the area. He says he hasn't seen many Americans lately, except for those who live in Baja.

"It's the violence, but it's also the American government telling people not to come over here because it's dangerous," said Hall, a La

Jolla art gallery director who visits about once a week. "It's the violence and our recession, both of which we caused."

Hall says that every time he talks to Americans, they ask him if it's safe to go to Mexico.

"I tell them that if they stay in the tourist areas, they're probably safe and not to worry," he said.

SWINE FLU: A NEW SCARE

When the flu outbreak started making headlines two weeks ago, some nations temporarily banned flights to and from Mexico, some U.S. and Mexican airlines waived fees for passengers who wanted to change their itineraries, and cruise lines canceled port stops.

"This is more significant, because during the drug cartel violence, there was the perception that the violence was restricted to the drug cartels. Right now, there is a perception that the swine flu virus is indiscriminate and anyone can become infected," said David A. Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at University of San Diego.

The World Health Organization is not recommending travel restrictions related to the virus.

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TAKING ACTION

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"It's been almost 40 years since we started in the business. We don't want to go. We're staying," he said. "Tijuana has given us a lot, and this time, Tijuana needs us. We'll stay to improve what we have to offer to tourists."

Contact the writer: 714-704-3709 or desalazar@ocregister.com

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CLOSE

As tourists avoid traveling to Mexico, Tijuana suffers

Trips across the border have dropped by 55 percent since early 2008 in a massive blow to Tijuana's economy

By Rosalba Ruiz and Denisse Salazar

The Orange County Register

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2009-05-20 12:14 AM

Avenida Revolucion is nearly a ghost town now, with the global economic crisis and drug cartel violence slamming the Mexican tourism industry. With the swine flu scare, even more tourists are staying away.

On April 27, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a travel alert recommending U.S. travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico. Even before that, the U.S. State Department, for more than a year, had a travel alert in place because of Mexico's drug cartel violence.

For 37 years, the Mendez family sold crafts, leather goods, and knickknacks in six stores here, along Avenida Revolucion, a popular shopping thoroughfare for tourists in this border city.

But now, as fewer Americans visit, Andres Mendez is struggling to keep open the last of his shops, Montealban Curios.

"I used to invest about US\$5,000 to US\$6,000 a week in merchandise and make anywhere from US\$20,000 to US\$25,000 a week at the most profitable store," said Mendez, coordinator for

Ceturmex, an Avenida Revolucion merchant association. "Last year, we had almost no profit. Now, we're almost in the red."

Similar stories float through the restaurants and other businesses along the 10-block avenue, now filled with for-rent signs.

About half of all businesses along the street have closed, according to the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau. Trips across the border have dropped by as much as 55 percent since early 2008, a massive blow to a city economy that depends on tourism and commerce for more than half of its revenue.

In early 2007, Mexican President Felipe Calderon declared war on the country's drug traffickers. The military and federal police took up a big role, and bloodshed increased as the government battled drug cartels, the cartels battled each other for territory and people within the cartels fought for leadership roles.

Since then, the drug wars have claimed about 8,000 lives in the country, according to various news reports. Tijuana, a city of two million residents, has had more than 200 homicides so far this year, although it's unclear how many can be attributed to the drug war.

But merchants, authorities and tourism officials say tourist areas are not where the violence is taking place.

"Downtown Tijuana and Avenida Revolucion are safe zones. There's a lot of security," said Juan Coronado, marketing director for the Tijuana Convention and Visitors Bureau. "If there are soldiers (in those areas), it doesn't mean that there's something bad happening; it actually gives residents peace of mind."

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Orange County Register/MCT A shop owner on Revolucion Avenue, a tourist hub in Tijuana, Mexico, waits for customers.

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Orange County Register/MCT Various tourist wares can be purchased on Revolucion Avenue in Tijuana, Mexico.

Provider

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Orange County Register/MCT Waiter Sergio Hernandez sets shrimp fajitas ablaze at Tilly's restaurant on Revolucion Avenue in Tijuana, Mexico.

Provider

On a recent afternoon, Gordon Hall was walking on a mostly-empty Avenida Revolucion with two friends from the area. He says he hasn't seen many Americans lately, except for those who live in Baja.

"It's the violence, but it's also the American government telling people not to come over here because it's dangerous," said Hall, a La Jolla, California, art gallery director who visits about once a week. "It's the violence and our recession, both of which we caused."

Hall says that every time he talks to Americans, they ask him if it's safe to go to Mexico.

"I tell them that if they stay in the tourist areas, they're probably safe and not to worry," he said.

When the flu outbreak started making headlines a few weeks ago, some nations temporarily banned flights to and from Mexico, some U.S. and Mexican airlines waived fees for passengers who wanted to change their itineraries, and cruise lines canceled port stops.

"This is more significant, because during the drug cartel violence, there was the perception that the violence was restricted to the drug cartels. Right now, there is a perception that the swine flu virus is indiscriminate and anyone can become infected," said David A. Shirk, director of the Trans-Border Institute at University of San Diego.

The World Health Organization is not recommending travel restrictions related to the virus.

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Checking Up On Drug War Border Checks

\$12 Million In Cash, 51 Pieces Of Ammunition Seized; Agents Say More Needs To Be Done

NOGALES, Ariz., May 15, 2009

Comments 5

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For the past five weeks, hundreds of agents participating in a newly intensified \$95 million outbound inspection program have been stepping into southbound traffic lanes, stopping suspicious-looking cars and trucks. (AP/Matt York)

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- Fifty-one pieces of ammunition, weapons parts and guns, a minuscule fraction of the 2,000 weapons the Mexican government estimates are smuggled south every day.

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- \$12 million in cash, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the \$17 billion to \$39 billion the U.S. Justice Department estimates is illegally sent to Mexico from the U.S. annually, but more than the \$10 million seized in outbound checks in 2008.

- Sixty-one people on charges involving weapons or currency offenses and on outstanding warrants.

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The outbound checkpoints the AP observed stopped sometimes one out of four cars, sometimes one out of 100, and not every day. Even that amount created huge traffic backups at some locations and, agents said, might have allowed spies to call any smugglers heading that way and warn them to put off their Mexico trip.

Agents across the border said the first few minutes of their operation are the most precious. That's how long it takes for "scouts" watching from a bridge in San Diego lined with taxis to radio ahead to smugglers to stay away. In Nogales, a dozen men dashed along a Mexican hill about 150 yards from the checkpoint last week.

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William Molaski, port director in El Paso, said agents at his four El Paso bridges haven't found much since the focus on outbound checks started in early April - one handgun and only about \$400,000 - "but not for lack of trying."

Without providing any numbers, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told attendees at the Border Trade Alliance International Conference on April 21 that, just a few weeks into the intensified outbound inspections, she was amazed at how much had already been seized. "It's unbelievable," she said. "So the notion that there wasn't a river of cash and a flood of guns going into Mexico is a myth. I mean, there was. We want to stop that river."

CBP's 2010 budget request, released May 7, includes an additional \$46 million specifically targeted at southbound enforcement.

Customs inspectors' techniques range from primitive to high-tech, with about an equal success rate. Sometimes a small white truck drives slowly alongside vehicles that have been pulled over, beaming X-rays at them to reveal hidden cash or weapons. A smaller X-ray unit scans spare tires or pieces of luggage, a hand-held density meter called a "Buster" can reveal hidden compartments loaded with cash, a fiber-optic scope snaked into gas tanks looks for hidden cargo and trained dogs can sniff out cash or weapons.

But before they get to any of the gadgets, officers knock with a knuckle or flat palm on a car's body panels. And they ask, again and again: "Do you have any weapons? Cash? Merchandise?"

Often the dogs make the finds.

Grill, a "currency canine," smelled something on 63-year-old Isabel Ortega Garcia on April 3 in Hidalgo, Texas, when Ortega was walking into Mexico. When Grill got excited, agents patted Ortega down and found \$148,000 in neat wads of \$100 bills taped around her waist.

Two weeks earlier in Laredo, Akim sniffed cash under the floor of a southbound bus. Under the seats, in a hidden compartment, were 75 bundles of bills totaling \$2,997,510.

But even finding that much cash doesn't always yield an arrest. Without a U.S. attorney's say-so, the best an agent can do is seize any cash amounts over \$10,000 that the traveler does not declare, hand them a receipt and send them on south.

The best case scenario for agents who seize undeclared currency is that federal prosecutors decide to bring charges and begin a forfeiture procedure. But often it is a race against the clock as inspectors on the scene try to collect enough evidence to make it an attractive case for prosecutors.

Although Laredo leads the country in cash seizures right now, even there seizing cash is rare, and arresting someone even more unusual, a weapons seizure rarer still. And that's where the inconvenience to travelers and agents' frustration set in.

Officers have no booths, no signs for drivers or lanes to pull people over in. Yet.

"We don't have the infrastructure that we need to conduct safe outbound inspections," said Oscar Preciado, director of San Diego's San Ysidro port of entry.

The Obama administration has budgeted \$269 million to upgrade these southern ports, adding lanes and pull-over spaces. Perhaps most importantly they'll be adding shade for the willing agents who wade into traffic under the blazing sun.


Over five hours on a recent day, outbound traffic from Laredo, Texas, to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, experienced the gamut from clear, moving traffic, to multi-agency teams laying travelers' lives bare, unpacking, X-raying and interviewing.

Farther west, during a two-hour "surge" in El Paso, not a single seizure was made as agents stopped dozens of vehicles.

Horns blared during afternoon rush hour south of San Diego as cars jammed the two freeways that merge at San Ysidro border crossing.

On the Mexican side soldiers toting M-16 rifles select a few motorists to wave aside for inspection.

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"It's a time-waster, but I understand they have a job to do," said Maria Soto, 50, of San Diego, who watched a soldier search her silver Toyota 4Runner.

Mexican officials say it is extremely rare to find anyone with weapons. The last time anyone in Tijuana could remember was April 17, when an American couple was found with 123 bullets.

Outbound checks have been going on, on a much smaller scale, for decades.

The weapons - easily purchased in the U.S. and banned in Mexico - are a major concern for the Obama administration.

Obama said while campaigning that he favored a ban on sales of assault weapons, but Congress isn't budging on the issue, and guns in the U.S., particularly in southern border states, are too easy to buy legally.

"The real issues of assault weapons and bulk cash do not initiate at the border and cannot be solved there," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego's Trans-Border Institute. "But gun control? That's a discussion the current administration is reluctant to wade into."

Local police and sheriff's departments are lending agents to CBP to help with the stops. Border czar Alan Bersin said he is confident that sporadic checks are keeping smugglers away, a sentiment echoed by other U.S. authorities.

"It's creating a deterrent effect," Bersin said in an interview, while discarding the idea of inspecting everyone.

Mexican customs inspector Ricardo Briseno, 27, says the increase in U.S. inspections of Mexico-bound cars has made his job easier, even though the only effective solution would be to stop every car.

"At least it's something," he said. "We are working together on a shared problem."

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Who cares?? They send us illegal aliens, we send them guns. Sounds fair. We get things we don't want and that kill people, they get things that they don't want and that kill people. What could be more fair than that. Until they stop sending those trashy illegal aliens here, we will not stop sending our high quality weapons there. They started the trade, we will finish it. Why is it that nothing can be done about the illegals, yet they expect us to do something about the weapons. If they can not stop human beings from crossing, how do they expect us to stop something as small as a weapon. It is far easier to hide a gun than a human.

Posted by **mrcrosby11** at 6:45 AM : May 17, 2009

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I dont know this bridge they speak of or outlook areas so its perhaps impossible. It would be nice if possible to put up the black contractors cloth you see around exteriors of buildings under construction.


secondly, Id love to see this money not just seized but rolled over into border and homeland security budget, perhaps commissions to agent. more they seize they get a bonus, works in private sector.

Posted by **wctcmcdic911** at 7:27 PM : May 15, 2009

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Our Politicians keep telling us our Immigration laws are broken and we need an comprehensive solution, which are code words for Amnesty, our Immigration Laws are not broken, they just have not been enforced, what is broken is our Political system when we elect Corrupt/Pandering politicians that puts their desires ahead of the Constitution of USA and the Rule of Law!

Our government fails the most basic and primary task & duty of government, to protect this Nation and its Citizens from invasion and enforce its laws.

 Print This Article

Monday, May 18, 2009
 Posted on Sun, May 17, 2009

Spot-checks at Mexican border turn up relatively little cash and few guns

The Associated Press

NOGALES, Ariz. — Hawks circle above the lines of traffic at the hot, arid border crossing into Mexico. Sagebrush catches clothes tossed by fence climbers. Three curious, dusty horses watch federal agents tapping on car windows, opening trunks, looking in vain for contraband.

An agent notices the horses and wonders aloud whether they're wild. A colleague notes the temperature: 92 degrees.

"We're sucking up a lot of exhaust out here," says Edith Serrano, a supervisory Customs and Border Protection officer, shrugging in her uniform.

President Barack Obama promised this spring to help Mexico fight its drug cartels by slowing the flow of cash and weapons from the United States.

And this is what the effort looks like.

For the past five weeks, hundreds of agents participating in a \$95 million outbound inspection program have been stepping into southbound traffic lanes, stopping suspicious-looking cars and trucks.

The Associated Press fanned out to the busiest crossings along the Mexican border — San Diego, Nogales, El Paso and Laredo — to see how effective the inspections are.

Wads of U.S. currency headed for Mexico, wedged into car doors, stuffed under mattresses, taped onto torsos, were sniffed out by dogs, seized by agents and locked away for possible investigations. No guns were found as the reporters watched. They rarely are.

"I do not believe we can even make a dent in [southbound smuggling] because that assumes the cartels are complete idiots, which they're not. Why in the world would they try to smuggle weapons and currency through a checkpoint when there are so many other options?" said Border Patrol Agent T.J. Bonner, president of the agents' union.

According to the CBP, between March 12 and April 30 officers seized or arrested:

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\$12 million in cash, less than 0.1 percent of the \$17 billion to \$39 billion the U.S. Justice Department says is illegally sent to Mexico from the U.S. annually.

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Big net, small catch

Crackdown finds little contraband heading from U.S. into Mexico

Sunday, May 17, 2009 3:32 AM

Associated Press

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DENIS POROY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Near San Diego, Customs and Border Protection officer Paul Werth searches a bus bound for Mexico.

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- ☐ Yes (\$5,001-\$10,000)
- ☐ Yes (\$More than \$10,001)

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The Associated Press

5/15/2009

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Kevin Jones of *The Trucker* staff can be reached for comment at kevinj@thetrucker.com.

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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS,

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AP foreign, Friday May 15 2009

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"We like to be unpredictable. We like to hit hard fast and pull back," said Oscar Preciado, director of San Diego's San Ysidro port of entry. "If we're going to have success, it's within the first few minutes."

Some of those stopped were sanguine, others annoyed.

"I guess they think I have drugs or something," said Daniel Saucedo, a 15-year-old Albuquerque high school student who clambered out of the passenger side of a small white pickup truck with his two dogs last week in El Paso, just a few hundred feet north of Ciudad Juarez, after agents ordered him into a secondary inspection area. Watching agents cut through heavy plastic wrap covering the computer gear while the driver unpacked the truck's bed, Saucedo worried about the delay.

"It's dumb," he said, before repacking and heading south. "They already had told us to leave and then they pulled us over."

William Molaski, port director in El Paso, said agents at his four El Paso bridges haven't found much since the focus on outbound checks started in early April — one handgun and only about \$400,000 — "but not for lack of trying."

"It's a needle in a haystack," Molaski said.

It's a different day, a different checkpoint, but the description is echoed again and again along the southwest border.

"To be honest, it's a crapshoot," said Jose Garcia, deputy special agent in charge of investigations at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in San Diego. "You're rolling the dice when doing this without intelligence."

However, Garcia added that the inspections send a message out. "You're letting people know, 'Hey, we're a strong presence. We're not going to just roll over.'"

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Although Laredo leads the country for cash seizures right now, even there seizing cash is rare, and arresting someone even more unusual, a weapons seizure rarer still. And that's where the inconvenience to travelers and agents' frustration set in.

Officers have no booths, no signs for drivers or lanes to pull people over in. Yet.

"We don't have the infrastructure that we need to conduct safe outbound inspections," said Preciado, at the San Ysidro port of entry. "We do the best with what we have ... So far, we've been lucky."

The Obama administration has budgeted \$269 million to upgrade these southern ports, adding lanes and pull-over spaces. Perhaps most importantly they'll be adding shade for the wilting agents who wade into traffic under the blazing sun.

Over five hours on a recent day, outbound traffic from Laredo, Texas, to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, experienced the gamut from clear, moving traffic, to multi-agency teams laying travelers' lives bare, unpacking, X-raying and interviewing.

Farther west, during a two-hour "surge" in El Paso, not a single seizure was made as Border Patrol and CBP agents stopped dozens of vehicles.

Horns blared during afternoon rush hour south of San Diego as cars jammed the two freeways that merge at San Ysidro border crossing. Inspectors standing at the end of K-rails that separate lanes peered into vehicles for 45 minutes, retreated for 30 minutes, then resumed.

San Ysidro has only seven southbound lanes, and some crossings have fewer, raising fears of nightmarish lines that would choke commerce and tourism if inspections become widespread. It's a busy place, with about 45,000 drivers and 30,000 pedestrians traveling in both directions every day.

The driver of a Volkswagen Jetta was ordered aside because a door lock was damaged, raising suspicions. She was cleared after explaining that someone tried to steal her car in Mexico.

Buses were emptied of passengers, who were questioned about their immigration status and sniffed by dogs while standing on the shoulder.

In one lane, about one of every four cars got stopped for a spell, while fewer than one in 30 were getting questioned in another lane. The crescendo of horns grew.

A day of sporadic inspections of U.S.-bound vehicles here netted one stolen vehicle. By comparison, on a typical day inspectors checking motorists and pedestrians entering the U.S. can find between three and 10 cars stocked with drugs and 150 illegal immigrants, often in trunks or other vehicle compartments.

Temperatures are also frayed on the Mexican side, where soldiers wearing ski masks and battle fatigues tote M-16 rifles and select a few motorists to wave aside for inspection. Soldiers bang on ceilings and side panels, open glove compartments, and order dogs to walk over the seats.

On a recent Thursday, soldiers inspected 150 vehicles between 5:20 a.m. and 9 p.m., 100 of them before 1 p.m.

"It's a time-waster, but I understand they have a job to do," said Maria Soto, 50, of San Diego, who watched a soldier search her silver Toyota 4Runner.

The Mexican army dispatched soldiers to the San Ysidro crossing in December, a little later than other points along the U.S. border, said Cesar David Montoya, assistant Customs administrator in Tijuana.

In addition, between 10 percent and 13 percent of motorists are randomly directed to pull over when a red light goes on and bell sounds in their lanes. Motorists who get a green light don't have to pull over.

"The system is completely random," Montoya said. "It's not effective."

By July, the Mexican government plans to install license-plate readers, scales and sensors in Tijuana, as it has already done this year along the Texas-Mexico border. Authorities estimate the equipment being installed at all of Mexico's 44 border crossings will cause each motorists to wait seven seconds, compared to two seconds currently.

The additional five seconds for each car is expected to create a backup of 400 cars in San Diego during rush hour, Mexican authorities predict.

Mexican customs inspectors, many of them unarmed, chase about 10 motorists a day through the streets of Tijuana when drivers ignore the red lights, bells and whistles that order them to pull over. Most say they didn't notice.

Mexican officials say it is extremely rare to find anyone with weapons. The last time anyone in Tijuana could remember was April 17, when an American couple was found with 123 bullets.

They feigned ignorance, despite giant freeway signs in Southern California warning that arms are illegal in Mexico, and were released without being charged.

Outbound checks have been going on, on a much smaller scale, for decades.

The weapons are easily purchased in the U.S. and banned in Mexico are a major conundrum for this administration.

Obama said while campaigning that he favored a ban on sales of assault weapons. But Congress isn't budging on the issue, and guns in the U.S., particularly southern border states, remain easy to buy legally.

"The real issues of assault weapons and bulk cash do not initiate at the border and cannot be solved there," said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego Trans-Border Institute. "But gun control? That's a discussion the current administration is reluctant to wade into."

But Shirk said the stepped-up outbound checks make clear the new spirit of cooperation between Mexico and the U.S.

"It's historic, a watershed to see the breakthrough in confidence on both sides of the border that the two sides can work together to solve these issues," he said.

Local police and sheriff's departments are loaning agents to CBP to help with the stops. And there have been unannounced southbound inspections in at least one border city every day since they were intensified in March, said border czar Alan Bersin.

He is confident that sporadic checks are keeping smugglers away, a sentiment echoed by other U.S. authorities.

"It's creating a deterrent effect," Bersin said in an interview, while discarding the idea of inspecting everyone.

Mexican customs inspector Ricardo Briseno, 27, says the increase in U.S. inspections of Mexico-bound cars has made his job easier, even though the only effective solution would be to stop every car.

"At least it's something," he said. "We are working together on a shared problem."

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Cerrar ventana

La batalla contra las drogas no cesa

México señala el éxito logrado en Tijuana, pero la violencia sigue expandiéndose por otras zonas

ELLIOT SPAGAT / Associated Press | 2009-05-11 | La Opinión

TIJUANA, México.— En la guerra de las drogas en México, la de la ciudad fronteriza de Tijuana es una historia en la que el gobierno dice estar ganando, pero la batalla se vuelve cada vez más sangrienta. El arresto a bordo de un yate en agosto de 2006 de Javier Arellano Félix, líder del cartel de la droga basado en Tijuana, desató una violenta guerra por la sucesión, que fue aprovechada por el presidente Felipe Calderón cuando declaró guerra total al narcotráfico.

El caso de Tijuana ha mostrado cuánto tiempo, esfuerzo y sangre va a tomar para someter incluso a un solo cartel. A 18 meses del arresto de Arellano Félix, los capos de esta ciudad seguían peleando entre sí y contra el Ejército.

Ahora, luego de una oleada de tiroteos y decapitaciones en plena luz del día —443 asesinatos en los últimos tres meses de 2008— Tijuana está más calmada.

Los escépticos dicen que la calma pudiera ser apenas una corta tregua entre traficantes, pero el general Alfonso Duarte Múgica dice: "Se agotaron entre sí", dijo. "No podían seguir a ese paso".

Para quebrar los otros carteles de la droga en el país, Calderón está empleando la misma estrategia que puso a la pandilla de Arellano Félix contra las sogas. La violencia México ha cobrado 10,700 vidas desde diciembre de 2006, una señal, dice el procurador Eduardo Medina Mora, de que la ofensiva del gobierno está dividiendo y debilitando a las pandillas en su batalla por el control del mercado.

La guerra lanzada por Calderón podría no acabar con el flujo de drogas, pero el objetivo, expresado por el Presidente en febrero, es debilitar a los carteles para 2012 a un punto en que el Ejército y la policía federal pueden retirarse y dejar la tarea a la fuerza policial local.

La suerte de la pandilla Arellano Félix muestra además que la batida del gobierno mexicano está teniendo su efecto y que el narcotráfico deja de ser un negocio discreto y disciplinado para convertirse en una descarada pelea pública entre grupos criminales menores y menos sofisticados.

"Al menos en los primeros dos años, no ha llevado a carteles menores y más controlables, sino a carteles menores y más violentos", dijo David Shirk, director del Instituto Trans-Border de la Universidad de San Diego.

Cuando los Arellano dominaban Tijuana existía un sentido de orden entre sus filas. Los miembros del cartel eran reclutados de familias acaudaladas y se codeaban sin problemas con la elite de Tijuana.

Ahora, los cuatro hermanos que lo encabezaban están muertos o encarcelados, y la pandilla es dirigida por Fernando Sánchez Arellano, un sobrino conocido como "El Ingeniero". Sánchez Arellano, de 36 años, está en guerra con Teodoro García Simental, un veterano lugarteniente del cartel que se separó hace un año en una pelea callejera que dejó muertos a 14 miembros de la pandilla.

Otras pandillas establecidas —desde el cartel de Sinaloa hasta el cartel del Golfo— contribuyen a la violencia batallando abiertamente por el territorio en Tijuana.

El rival del Ingeniero, conocido como "El Teo" o "Tres Letras", se ha aliado ahora con el cartel de Sinaloa, de acuerdo con documentos del Ejército fechados en febrero.

El Teo y El Ingeniero no se asemejan a los líderes de los 90, cuando los carteles mexicanos reemplazaron a los colombianos a medida en que operaciones antidroga lanzadas por Estados Unidos en el Caribe y el sur de Florida desplazaron las rutas de narcotráfico hacia la frontera mexicoestadounidense.

En esos días, Ramón Arellano Félix era el matón que tenía motocicletas Harley-Davidson y asesinaba por placer. Benjamín Arellano Félix era el hombre de negocios reservado, vestido de forma conservadora y, según un auto federal de instrucción de cargos de San Diego, "tenía suprema autoridad" en el grupo.

Los Arellano mataron a todo el que se interpusiese en su territorio en la frontera México-California, ayudados por policías corruptos. Su principal matón en la ciudad de Mexicali, de acuerdo con documentos judiciales estadounidenses, era Armando Martínez Duarte, un ex policía federal.

Aún así, los hermanos trataron de evitar la violencia pública, usualmente disolviendo cadáveres en ácido o quemándoles en el desierto, según John Kirby, un ex fiscal estadounidense que firmó el auto de instrucción de cargos en 2002.

"Benjamín quería las cosas calladas", dijo Kirby. "No quería un montón de cadáveres en las calles". El

cartel atrajo a algunas de las familias más prominentes de Tijuana.

Alejandro y Alfredo Hoyodán, hijos estadounidenses de un contratista eléctrico de Tijuana, se unieron a Ramón en los mejores clubes nocturnos y fiestas callejeras en la ciudad. La madre de ambos, Cristina Palacios, recordó que Ramón lucía un abrigo de visón y pantalones cortos la primera vez que le vio en 1987.

Ramón siempre pagaba por las bebidas y muy pronto los hermanos Hoyodán se sumaron a sus operaciones.

Alejandro tenía 35 años cuando desapareció en 1997. Alfredo, de 36 años, está en una prisión mexicana. Palacios se toma una pausa ante la pregunta de qué atrajo a sus hijos a Ramón Arellano Félix. "Pienso que fue la adrenalina", dijo.

Pero la aceptación pública de los Arellano se evaporó en 1993, cuando Ramón y miembros del cartel que buscaban matar a un rival asesinaron por error al arzobispo Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo en el aeropuerto de Guadalajara.

Mientras tanto, funcionarios antidrogas de México y de EEUU comenzaron a debilitar la cúpula del cartel.

En 2002, las autoridades mexicanas mataron a Ramón en un tiroteo en Mazatlán y, un mes más tarde, capturaron a Benjamín, que sigue encarcelado en México.

Luego de la captura de Benjamín, un importante lugarteniente del grupo que estaba bajo arresto comenzó a hablar con autoridades de EEUU, según David Herrod, un agente de la Oficina Federal contra el Narcotráfico (DEA), que persiguió a los hermanos por casi 20 años.

Arturo "Kitty" Páez, que en el 2001 se convirtió en el primer narcotraficante mexicano en ser extraditado a EEUU bajo un histórico veredicto del Tribunal Supremo de México, dio a las autoridades la información que necesitaban para preparar un caso sólido contra Benjamín y otros importantes líderes, dijo Herrod en una conferencia pública este año.

El general Duarte Múgica dice que el cartel de los Arellano Félix está dividido y debilitado, aunque no dice que esté acabado.

El grupo de El Teo también está en aprietos. Un presunto matón y ex policía, Angel Jacome Gamboa, estaba entre 60 personas arrestadas en un salón de bailes en Tijuana en marzo.

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News Journal

May 7, 2009

THURSDAY MAY 7

ELDER ABUSE - Paul Greenwood, head of the San Diego County Elder Abuse Unit, presents "Ten Tips to Help You Reduce the Risk of Becoming the Next Victim of Elder Abuse" at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 7 at Rancho Bernardo Senior Services, 16769 Bernardo Center Drive, Suite K-14. Make reservations by calling 858-487-2640.

SPRING TEA - Just in time for Mother's Day, the R.B. Woman's Club hosts a tea for members and friends starting at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 7 at the Bernardo Heights Country Club. Debra Rosen, new San Diego North Chamber president/CEO will talk about the chamber. For reservations, call 858-674-5941.



RB NOON ROTARY

- Michael Rennie gives a preview of the upcoming season of the Poway Center for the Arts at a meeting of the RB Noon Rotary at Bernardo Heights Country Club, 16066 Bernardo Heights Parkway, Rancho Bernardo. Stay for

lunch for \$17. More information online at www.rbrotary.org.

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN SITUATION -

William R. Headley, Ph.D. of the University of San Diego discusses "New Optics in the Israeli-Palestinian Situation" at a meeting of the World Affairs Council 10 a.m. Thursday, May 7 at the Remington Club, 16922 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo. All are invited, no charge.

NEWS CHIEFTAIN

May 7, 2009

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DAILY BUSINESS REPORT

May 18 , 2009

San Diego Metropolitan

BORDER CZAR' COMING TO TOWN

Alan Bersin, named to the new post of "border czar" by Homeland Security Secretary **Janet Napolitano**, is the featured speaker at a May 27 luncheon sponsored by **LEAD San Diego, The City Club** and **USD's Trans-Border Institute**. Luncheon topic is "The Border in Crisis." Bersin, most recently chair of the **San Diego County Airport Authority**, was named to his current post to oversee efforts to end drug cartel violence along the U.S.-Mexico border and to slow illegal border crossings.

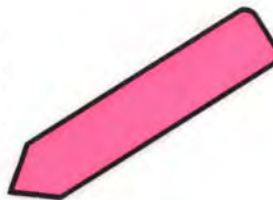
The luncheon is at noon in the **Harborside Room** at the **Holiday Inn on the Bay**, Harbor Drive at Ash Street, in Downtown. Admission is \$30. For reservations, call (619) 687-3580.

SAN DIEGO READER

May 21, 2009

CALENDAR

"The Border in Crisis" Alan Bersin — Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Special Representative for Border Affairs, United States Department of Homeland Security — speaks during luncheon hosted by LEAD San Diego, the City Club, and USD's Trans-Border Institute. RSVP: 619-687-3580. Wednesday, May 27, 12pm; \$30. Holiday Inn on the Bay, 1355 North Harbor Drive. (DOWNTOWN)



SAN DIEGO CITY BEAT

May 6, 2009

LECTURES

★**FRITZ HAEG** at VAF Performance Space, Visual Arts Facility, UCSD campus. Haeg discusses the creation of "Edible Estates," an agricultural project that seeks to replace suburban lawns. At 7 p.m. **Wednesday, May 6.** 858-534-2230, www.fritzhaeg.com

JAMES GREEBL at Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, 1008 Wall St., La Jolla. Greebl is the first in a series of four lectures examining the art of the Renaissance. At 7 p.m. **Thursday, May 7.** 858-454-5872 x17, www.ljathenaeum.org

MARC GARI at USC at JCUA B. Kroc Institute for Peace, USD, Linda Vista. The Human Right Watch Senior Analyst discusses "Behind the Headlines and Off the Record." At 7 p.m. **Thursday, May 7.** 619-260-7509, www.sandiego.edu

PETER WARD at San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park. The award-winning paleontologist discusses his forthcoming book, *The Medea Hypothesis*. See website for advance registration. At 6 p.m. **Thursday, May 7.** 619-232-3821, www.sdnhm.org

ANDREW MCQUIRE at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4190 Front St., Hillcrest. McGuire discusses "Real Healthcare Reform in California - California OneCare: the Grassroots Campaign." At 7 p.m. **Thursday, May 7.** 619-298-9978, www.healthcareforall.org

★**THOM MAYNE** at MCASD La Jolla, 700 Prospect St., La Jolla. The internationally renowned designer and architect discusses his work at the final installment of MCASD's Master Architects Lecture Series. At 7 p.m. **Friday, May 8.** \$30, www.mcasd.org

JAMES GALLOWAY at Natural Sciences Building auditorium, UCSD campus. Galloway discusses "Nitrogen: A Story of Food, Fuel and Fiber" for the eighth annual Jim Arnold Lecture. At 4 p.m. **Friday, May 8.** 858-534-2230, ucsd.edu

GREENOVATION at Atkinson Pavilion, Faculty Club, UCSD campus. Ayelet Gneezy and Barry Logan discuss "The Water We Eat." See website to RSVP. At 4 p.m. **Tuesday, May 12.** esl.ucsd.edu/greenovation

MONIQUE HENDERSON at Spring Valley Library, 838 Kempton St., Spring Valley. The two-time Olympic gold medalist discusses her career. At 3 p.m. **Tuesday, May 12.** www.springvalleylibrary.pbwiki.com

PRESIDIO SENTINEL

May 2009

May 7

Andrew McGuire, California Executive Director of Health Care for All, will speak at 7 pm on Real Healthcare Reform in California, California One Care: The Grassroots Campaign. During the past 35 years he has been directly involved in many health policy issues that have faced state and national policymakers. The event sponsored by the Peace & Democracy Action Group of the First Unitarian Universalist Church will be at the church 4190 Front St, free parking in Church parking lot, donation requested. Visit www.HealthCareforAll.org

"Behind the Headlines and Off the Record," with Marc Garlasco, Human Rights Watch Senior Analyst will discuss how HRW collects evidence in war zones, 7 p.m. Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice Theatre, University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. RSVP at ipj@sandiego.edu, or call 619-260-7509

Other

© Die Welt 19.05.2009

Dell's Low-Rate Financing Helps Public-Sector Customers Acquire Technology

Dell is helping its customers remain competitive in a tough economy by lowering the cost of financing for needed technology.

The News:

- Effective immediately, qualified Large Enterprise and Public end-user customers in the U.S. can get new Dell-branded product solutions with exceptional low-rate financing.¹
- The offer includes ownership financing with an effective rate as low as zero percent for tax-exempt public-sector customers and as low as 2.5 percent for commercial/non tax-exempt customers.² With terms from 12-48 months, customers can get the technology they need today with no money down and fixed regular payments.
- For customers desiring a programmatic rotation of their IT assets, Dell also offers promotional rotation lease solutions that allow customers to pay for the use of their technology and return it at the end of the lease term, thus taking advantage of the latest technological advancements, while helping to lower total cost of ownership. An effective technology rotation program can help lower a customer's total cost of ownership by as much as 20.5 percent, according to one study.³ For additional information, customers can visit Dell Financial Services or contact their Dell sales representative.
- Public-sector IT professionals awaiting American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding can better manage their immediate technology needs with help from Dell's flexible financing options, services and information.
- Respondents of IDC's 2009 IT Leasing & Financing survey say their motivation to lease/finance has changed with the economy and capital conservation has risen in importance.

Quote:

- "The current economic environment has led our teams to further identify the most efficient ways to stretch our IT spending. Having the flexibility to lease and finance our assets allows us to maximize our technology and keep IT expenditures aligned with our budget constraints. Dell Financial Services has been instrumental in offering solutions that allow us to achieve strategic goals that help advance the University of San Diego," said Christopher W. Wessells, vice provost and chief information officer, University of San Diego.

Additional Information:

www.dellfinancialservices.com

www.direct2dell.com/simplifyandsave

About Dell

Dell Inc. (NASDAQ: DELL) listens to customers and delivers innovative technology and services they trust and value.



Northrop Grumman Supplies Navigation Training Packages for Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Students

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. - May 18, 2009 - Naval Reserve Officer Training Candidate (NROTC) students at college campuses in San Diego have become the first to use an advanced navigation training package supplied by Northrop Grumman Corporation's (NYSE:NOC) Sperry Marine business unit.

The computerized learning DVDs contain interactive courseware (ICW) training lessons on the use and operation of Sperry Marine's Voyage Management System (VMS) ship navigation software. They are being used in the navigation training curriculum for NROTC students at the University of San Diego and other greater San Diego college campuses.

"The Sperry Marine eLearning courseware provides a high-quality, professionally produced training experience for our students," said Capt. Mark Woolley, commanding officer of the five San Diego-area NROTC units. "We are pleased to be the first NROTC program in the country to make use of this excellent instructional tool for preparing our future officers for their careers in the naval service."

"The eLearning courseware will give the NROTC students an opportunity to become familiar with the standard electronic navigation system used throughout the U.S. Navy surface and submarine fleets. This ICW has been recently incorporated as a navigation training delivery method at the U.S. Naval Academy," said Jeff Holloway, director of U.S. defense business development and marketing/sales for Northrop Grumman Sperry Marine.

Holloway noted that Sperry Marine VMS-based integrated bridge systems are either installed on or under contract for 175 U.S. Navy ships and submarines. It is the only navigation system that has been certified by the Navigator of the Navy to meet the requirements for naval electronic chart display and information systems (ECDIS-N) under the U.S. Navy's phased program to convert the fleet from paper to electronic nautical charts.

The eLearning courseware was created by Sperry Marine's team of navigation instructors and courseware developers, and complements the traditional VMS lessons taught in the company's training and simulator facilities in the U.S. as well as shipboard instructor-provided training.

Northrop Grumman Sperry Marine, headquartered in Charlottesville, Va., and with major engineering and support offices in New Malden, United Kingdom and Hamburg, Germany, provides smart navigation and ship control solutions for the international marine industry with customer service and support through offices in 16 countries, sales representatives in 47 countries and authorized service depots in more than 250 locations worldwide.

Source : Northrop Grumman

2009-05-19

Web : <http://www.northropgrumman.com/>

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Search News

Teach for America: The 2009 class

By The Associated Press — 17 hours ago

AP Associated Press

A record number of college graduates is joining Teach for America, the program that trains top students to teach in poor communities. Here is a look at where the 4,100 new teachers are coming from:

Colleges most attended:

University of Michigan

University of Texas, Austin

University of California,

Cornell University

University of Wisconsin, Madison

Harvard University

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Yale University

Schools where Teach for America is the No. 1 employer of graduating seniors:

Albion College

Barnard College

Brown University

Emory University

Georgetown University

Loyola of New Orleans

Marquette University

Mount Holyoke College

Spelman College

Trinity College, Connecticut

Tulane University

University of Chicago

University of Connecticut

University of San Diego

Vanderbilt University



Schools with more than 5 percent of the senior class applying:

Spelman, 25 percent

Yale, 16 percent

Princeton University and Wellesley College, 15 percent

Brown, University of Chicago, Haverford College, 14 percent

Harvard, Bowdoin College, 13 percent

Columbia University, Cornell, Georgetown, Swarthmore College, Duke University, 11 percent

University of Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, Amherst College, William & Mary, Tulane, 10 percent

University of Michigan, 8 percent

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Students avoid partying in Mexico

By Dana Flack
May 15, 2009
Source: UWIRE

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While San Diego, Calif. students are only a 30 minute drive away from Tijuana – known for its young drinking age, crazy clubs, and inexpensive prices – some students think twice before crossing the border.

Fear of the party destination spread across the University of San Diego campus after officials found four Americans, aged 19 to 23, strangled to death in Tijuana.

"You don't think it's going to happen to you but then you hear something like this," said Kitt Lovel, a student at the University of San Diego. "These people are our age and it's very scary to think."

Kelly Ness, a USD freshman, said, "It's really going to make me think twice. It's a very dangerous place that you don't want to go to right now."

Other students have noticed that the recent violence in Mexico has minimized the number of student trips to Tijuana.

"I went on a Tijuana party bus last year, but then they stopped it in the beginning of this year," said Rachel Horgan, 20. "They changed it to (go to) parties downtown, which was a really smart move."

Students have also noticed clubs and organizations canceling day trips to Tijuana for educational reasons.

"It affected my club, AMSA, because we can't go down anymore because of all the risks," said Jessica Kahl, 21.

Overall, many students are choosing alternate destinations in light of violence in Mexico.

"A lot of my residents were really crazy this year," said Liz Crosby, a former USD RA. "They went to Vegas every other weekend, but they would never go to Tijuana."

When students were notified of the recent deaths of these four young victims, many of them were not surprised.

"It's terrible to hear something like that happened," said Andrew Adamany, 22, "but with the way things are going down there I'm not too surprised because of all the violence that has been occurring within the past couple of months."

Miriam Rayward, 22, thinks similarly, "After everything that I've been hearing from the news, this event doesn't surprise me."

Although many students sympathize for these victims, some remain unmoved by the event and believe that students should take more responsibility in their actions. Steve Perez, 20, feels that students should already be aware of the possibilities of danger in Tijuana.

"Students already know the risks," he said, "why put myself in danger?"

This story was originally published by UWIRE

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Ten Questions: Philanthropist active in Tijuana, locally

May 12, 2009
- La Jolla Light

Yolanda Walther-Meade is an active philanthropist and community catalyst in the Tijuana and San Diego communities. She has sat on the board of the University of San Diego since 1989, the board of governors of The University Club since 2001 and the board of the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UCSD since 1997.

Walther-Meade has also been vice president and founder of the Fundaci-n Internacional de la Comunidad, A.C. since 2000, the first community foundation in Baja California.

With her daughter, Yolanda S., she has served as co-chair of the Dos Aguilas/Two Eagles Binational Gala for the San Diego Natural History Museum since 2002.

The La Jolla resident is the mother of five accomplished adults and grandmother of six.

What brought you to La Jolla?

My late husband and I were looking for a vacation home, and I've been on vacation ever since.

What makes La Jolla special to you?

This is a wonderful place to be. I am sure that, like me, people appreciate the beautiful views, beaches, schools, the feeling of a small town, tight-knit and giving community.

I love the fact that I can go down to the Village and I have everything I could need: the post office, church and some shopping.

If you could snap your fingers and have it done, what might you add, subtract or improve in La Jolla?

I would add more parking, improve the in and out of La Jolla and add more security. I still miss the movie theater.

Who inspires you?

There are plenty of role models in our San Diego area, but three women living come to mind: Deborah Szekely, with her last dream come true, the New Americans Museum; former Sen. Lucy Killea, a mentor for many people; and Sister Sally Furay, former provost at USD, a great educator.

How do you juggle all the different philanthropic organizations with which you're involved?

Definitely a color-coded calendar so I know right away what are my family or social responsibilities. A BlackBerry because I travel a lot. Organization is key in my life. When you have a mission in life, everything kind of falls into place.

If you hosted a dinner party for eight, whom (living or deceased) would you invite?

Bob and Karen Hoehn, President Obama and Michelle, Darlene Shiley, Liam Neeson and Sidney Poitier.

What are you currently reading?

The anniversary edition of Fr. James Keller's "You Can Change the World" and "The Piano Teacher" by Janice Lee.

What do you do for fun?

Anything that has to do with learning, like travel, theater, dancing and movies.

Describe your greatest accomplishment.

First of all, raising five successful and happy children and being part of their lives. Second, being part of the community and enjoying what I do.

What is your motto or philosophy of life?

Everything happens for a reason; try to learn and go on. I can't live my children's life, but I can try to do my best, and if I can share what God has given me, then I am happy.



Yolanda Walther-Meade
Photo by: Courtesy

The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

WHAT A TRIP: Campus tours chance to escape Contra Costa 'bubble'

By Nancy D. Brown

Posted: 05/07/2009 02:01:59 PM PDT

Updated: 05/07/2009 02:02:00 PM PDT

AS SURE AS the salmon migrate upstream to lay their eggs, mothers and fathers are beginning the migration process with their high school juniors and seniors to visit prospective colleges. We spotted many Lamorinda minnows in the proverbial fish pond otherwise known as campus tours.

College visits are a great way to check out potential schools and discover new areas outside of the Contra Costa bubble. Campolindo Parent Lynn Carey said it best: "It's a good way to light a fire under your kid's behind, if they find a place they like." Carey and her family are Boston-bound this summer, "Because we only like to go to Boston when it's really, really humid," she laughed.

UC Santa Barbara graduate Craig Isaacs said, "When we were looking at schools, there wasn't much info available. You had to visit to get a sense of the school. Now, the Internet gives you a sense of what the school's about. Isaac's conclusion, "Use the Internet to narrow choices, apply, then visit after acceptance. The exception — local/in-state schools where chance of acceptance is high.

Moraga's Trish and Caroline O'Neill visited five northwest colleges in four days. "My son attends Middlebury College in Vermont, so we were looking for small schools," noted Trish. "The ratio of student-to-professor is hard to get in the large

institutions."

The family visited three Oregon schools — the University of Portland, Lewis & Clark and Linfield College, a small liberal arts school located in McMinnville. After visiting Seattle University, Caroline determined she didn't want to be in the city. The family noted that Tacoma, Washington's University of Puget Sound student ambassadors did a wonderful job.

For schools such as the University of Oregon in Eugene, weather can play a factor in determining how a student will adapt. Don't let a summer visit to the Emerald City seduce you into believing that the campus radiates sunshine. There's a reason that the school vibrates with amazing green energy. It rains a lot in Eugene.

Colleges down south

For beauty and the beach, some of the Southern California schools offer amazing scenery. The private University of San Diego has manicured grounds and transportation to beachside La Jolla. The University of San Diego offers cutting-edge research to its students, along with non-stop sunshine. Another favorite among Lamorinda students was San Diego State University. We had seven Acalanes and Campolindo students join our campus tour during Spring Break.

What's not to like about the University of Santa Barbara? Snuggled up to the Pacific coastline,

California coeds at UCSB buzz along on their cruisers as they bicycle and walk to class. For marine biologists, this school has its own Marine Operations Facility. It doesn't hurt that some of the dorm rooms come with ocean views.

Our final college tour took us to Cal Poly in the

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Curso binacional

Lilia O'Hara [Enlace]

Últimamente el mercado latino ha estado en la mira de la Universidad de San Diego y ahora están ofreciendo un diplomado enfocado en las artes.

La universidad privada está por empezar el diplomado en administración de las artes y de organizaciones de arte y cultura sin fines de lucro con énfasis en esta región.

El objetivo es preparar a líderes que entiendan la administración de las artes tanto en los Estados Unidos como en México.

De entrada, el diplomado está dirigido a quienes ya trabajan en administración de arte, pero puede atraer a artistas o a otras personas interesadas en esta área.

El diplomado está integrado por 10 módulos que se cubren de 96 a 120 horas. Los estudiantes se reunirán dos días consecutivos al mes.

En una reunión informativa reciente, la organizadora, Karla Duarte, y varios de los profesores que darán el curso dieron los detalles de cada clase.

Duarte, la directora del diplomado, dijo que la intención es dar herramientas a quienes administran las artes para enriquecer los conocimientos en áreas como curaduría, coleccionistas, recaudación de fondos, administración de galerías y otros temas.

La administración de las artes se imparte en unas 40 universidades en los Estados Unidos; lo diferente en este caso es que al curso se le dará un enfoque binacional.

Este tipo de cursos sí es útil y necesario, dijo Carmen Cuenca, subdirectora de promoción cultural del Centro Cultural Tijuana y quien por muchos años ha trabajado en la venta, administración y promoción de las artes plásticas en ambos lados de la frontera.

"Será útil si logran transmitir cómo colaborar y entendernos mutuamente entre el sistema mexicano y el estadounidense. Si se habla de las limitaciones, de hasta dónde podemos legalmente hacer cosas, por ejemplo."

Otro requisito que apuntó Cuenca como necesario es que se transmita el enfoque bilateral de las artes, que se considere el desarrollo histórico del lugar y que abarque lo práctico. Cuenca no participa en el diplomado.

La idea es que haya profesores tanto de los Estados Unidos como de México. Hasta la fecha están confirmados como colaboradores latinos Pedro Ochoa, agregado cultural del Consulado de México en San Diego; Duarte; y Mauricio Chávez, líder de proyecto y editor en el Colegio de la Frontera Norte. También participarán la mercadóloga mexicana Martha Guzmán, residente de Long Beach; y la curadora colombiana Adriana Cleves.

Este curso se dará solamente en inglés, pero los organizadores están abiertos a proporcionar interpretación simultánea si es necesario. Y en un futuro, consideran que pueda darse en español.

El 15 de mayo empieza el primer módulo, pero la idea es que pueda repetirse. Los participantes tendrán un periodo de dos años para completar los nueve módulos si les interesa obtener el certificado del curso, o pueden tomar solamente las clases que les interesan.

De arte y más

Qué:

Administración de organizaciones de artes visuales y escénicas sin fines de lucro
Primer módulo del diplomado

Dónde:

Universidad de San Diego

Cuándo:

Mayo 15 y 16

Cuánto:

Cada módulo de 12 horas tiene un costo de \$349

Informes:

sandiego.edu/businessforarts
o Monica Phelps-Zambra-
no, monica@sandiego.edu,
619.260.5986

Lilia O'Hara - 619.293.2294

lilia.ohara@milenlace.com

DAILY AZTEC

May 3, 2009

GREEK BEAT: 5-4-09

Multi-campus charity event

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternities from San Diego State, University of California at San Diego and the University of San Diego teamed up to host a multi-campus charity soccer tournament Saturday.

There was a sand castle building competition and a tug-o-war competition.

Approximately 20 sororities from all three campuses participated in the games.

The three chapters worked to raise money to donate to their national charity, YouthAIDS. Sigma Phi Epsilon's vice president of communication, Sean Kashanchi, said the three chapters have been organizing the event since November.

"(The) Sun Cup (was) the largest philanthropic event ever held in San Diego," Kashanchi, a business management junior, said. "Though the games will only be for the sororities of the three universities, we encourage people to come out (to) support our cause, donate money, have some fun and enjoy the day at Mariner's Point."

Seven bands performed throughout the day. There were also multiple disc jockeys and five different food vendors.

So far, Sigma Phi Epsilon has raised money through online donations. The fraternity has also held fundraisers all week long.

From the Sun Cup event, the food vendors planned to donate 20 percent of their total sales to the cause.

For more information and to donate, log on to <http://sigepsuncup.chipin.com/sigma-phi-epsilon>.

City of
Hope.

Walk HOPE to Cure Breast Cancer

Walk for Hope to Cure Breast Cancer

Saturday, May 9 7:15a to 12:00p

at University of San Diego, San Diego, CA

Make a difference in the fight against breast cancer by joining us for City of Hope-Walk for Hope to cure breast cancer; an inspiring, fun and leisurely 3k walk and 5k fun run

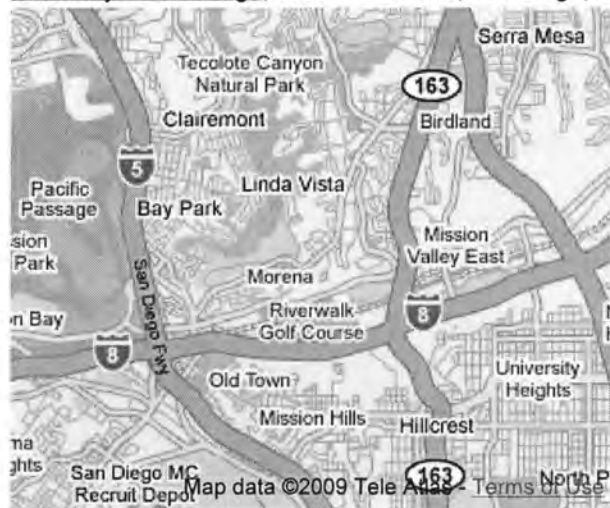
Price: Presale: Adults \$30 Children \$20 Day of: Adults \$35 Children \$25

Phone: (858) 452-6846

Categories: [Charity & Volunteer](#), [Health](#)

Location & Nearby Info

University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, San Diego, CA, 92110



[Full map and directions](#)

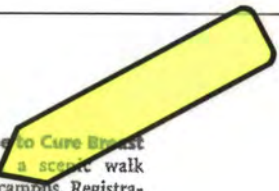
Show nearby:

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 ☐ Hotels
☐ Bars

SAN DIEGO READER

May 7, 2009

CALENDAR



Walk for Hope to Cure Breast Cancer Take a scenic walk through USD campus. Registration begins at 7:15 a.m., followed by 3k and 5k walks stepping off at 8:30 a.m. Pledges. 800-888-5323. Saturday, May 9, 7:15 a.m.; \$30-\$20. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 11, 2009

OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 12 - PANEL DISCUSSION

LEADING HIGH PERFORMANCE TEAMS

Join us for a panel discussion that will examine the knowledge sets, skills, and abilities required to create and lead high-performance teams. Panelists will provide their insights into developing a positive team dynamic and culture, implementing best practices in creating a high level of team performance, focus, and discipline, and recognizing the circumstances which might cause a team and a team leader to fail. For more info: www.athenasd.org. **Organization:** Athena San Diego and the USD Master of Science in Executive Leadership Program **Information:** 858-461-0720 andrea@athenasd.org **Cost:** \$40.00- \$55.00 **When:** Hours: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Where:** The Salk Institute, 10010 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037

TUESDAY, MAY 12 - WORKSHOP SERIES

SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS OPEN HOUSE

The open house will feature instructors and program graduates, along with author and keynote speaker Michelle Bergquist. **Organization:** University of San Diego **Information:** Julia Cherners 619-260-7699 juliarose@sandiego.edu **Cost:** No Cost **When:** Hours: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM **Where:** Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center

* Community Healthcare Calendar

To submit a community healthcare event for possible magazine and website publication, email KLewis@SDCMS.org. All events should be physician-focused and should take place in San Diego County.

Essential Topics in Pediatrics 2009 at the Catamaran Resort Hotel. Visit <http://cme.ucsd.edu/events.cfm>.

UCSD Tele-medicine Full-day Training at the Southern California Tele-medicine Learning Center, UCSD Campus. Visit www.telemedicine.ucsd.edu.

2009 American Thoracic Society International Conference. Educational program for clinicians and researchers in adult and pediatric pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine. Sample a broad spectrum of topics or concentrate on critical care, sleep, allergy/immunology or other specialty related to respiratory medicine. Visit www.thoracic.org.

Alzheimer's Disease: Update on Research, Treatment, and Care at the Omni San Diego Hotel. Visit <http://cme.ucsd.edu/events.cfm>.

Fresh Start's Surgery Weekend. A team of dedicated medical volunteers donates their time and expertise to provide disadvantaged children with the highest quality medical services and ongoing care. July 25-26, September 12-13, and November 7-8 at the Center for Surgery of Encinitas. Contact (760) 448-2021 or mimi@freshstart.org, or visit www.freshstart.org.

San Diego Academy of Family Physicians 52nd Annual Postgraduate Symposium at the Hilton Resort San Diego. Visit www.sandiegoafp.org.

Riverside County Medical Association's 5th Annual "Cruisin' Thru CME" (Eastern Mediterranean). Call (800) 745-7545.

26th Annual Primary Care Summer Conference at Paradise Point Resort, San Diego. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

New Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Disease at the Hilton San Diego Resort, San Diego. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

4th Annual Clinical Update on Heart Failures and Arrhythmias: From Prevention to Cure at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

9th Annual Destination Health: Renewing Mind, Body, and Soul at the Marriott Kauai Resort, Kauai, Hawaii. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

20th Annual Coronary Interventions at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. Visit www.scripps.org/health-education.

2009 San Diego Day of Trauma at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of California, San Diego. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

XVII World Congress of Psychiatric Genetics. Offers a forum for exchange of the latest scientific data and education for the interested clinician. at the Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego. Contact (858) 534-3940 or ocme@ucsd.edu.

Melanoma 2010: 20th Annual Cutaneous Malignancy Update , 2010, at the Hilton San Diego Resort, San Diego. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

7th Annual Natural Supplements: An Evidence-based Update , 2010, at the Paradise Point Resort, San Diego. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.

Scripps Cancer Center's 30th Annual Conference: Clinical Hematology and Oncology , 2010, at the Omni San Diego Hotel. Visit www.scripps.org/conferenceservices.



SAN DIEGO READER

May 14, 2009

CALENDAR

Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

Creative Writing Class Author Lisa Shapiro helps writers improve creative writing, including fiction, family history, personal memoirs, and creative nonfiction. 619-588-3718. Monday, May 18, 2 p.m.; free. El Cajon Library, 201 East Douglas Avenue. (EL CAJON)

Floral Design Credentialed floral instructor Betty Patterson divulges "secrets of beautiful, creative displays" for MiraCosta Horticulture Club in room 7001. Refreshments, plant raffle follow. Visitors welcome. 760-729-8172. Saturday, May 16, 12:45 p.m.; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

Goodbye Baja Bishop Pine? Greg Abbott focuses on "Endangered Conifers of Southern California and Northern Baja" for Tijuana Estuary Speaker Series. Did you know that some species of pines and cypresses are almost extinct in our region? "Abbott, will explain how a comet impact 12,900 years ago caused abrupt ecological changes that shifted the vegetation communities of California." 619-575-3613. Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.; free. Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way. (IMPERIAL BEACH)

Home Grown: Worms Learn to take care of worms! Part of community gardening series with master gardeners Diane Hollister and Pete Ash hosted by Agri Service, Inc. Reservations: 800-262-4167 x4. Saturday, May 16, 1:30 p.m.; free. El Corazon compost facility, 3210 Oceanside Boulevard. (OCEANSIDE)

How to Live Happily Ever After with Your Dog Open-forum workshop covers topics such as house training, socialization with people and other animals, calmness in home, communication with your dog, basic nutrition, more. For people only. Required reservations:

619-299-7012 x2247. Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.; \$35. San Diego Humane Society and SPCA, 5500 Gaines Street. (LINDA VISTA)

Lifestyle Medicine Dr. John Kasawa simplifies topic of lifestyle medicine — which includes nutrition, exercise, sleep — during lecture entitled "Take Control of Your Health" offered in multipurpose room of Student Services Center. How does lifestyle affect most major diseases? 408-239-7696. Monday, May 18, 5:30 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Rare Glimpses Offered! Senior archivist Jane Keeney and Chris Travers, director of the Booth Historical Photograph Archive, demonstrate how to conduct research in the library, ways to properly identify source materials that may help in research projects during this research library open house. 619-232-6203 x129. Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.; free-\$6. Museum of San Diego History, 1649 El Prado. (BALBOA PARK)

Save Time and Money Series of grant-writing and nonprofit development workshops continues with "Program Evaluation Made Easy." Learn to count only what is important to your program and to your funders. Classes offered in room SSC-1. Registration: 619-460-2738. Friday, May 15, 10 a.m.; free. Palomar College, 1140 West Mission Road. (SAN MARCOS)

UCSD Visiting Artist Lecture Series: Marnie Weber/Jim

Shaw Series continues with talk by duo in Visual Arts Facility Performance Space. Weber's photomontages and videos are said to deal in "half-finished hallucinogenic fantasies." 858-246-0015. Thursday, May 14, 7:45 p.m.; free. University of California San Diego, 9500 Gilman Drive. (LA JOLLA)

Want to Write a Newbery Winner? Author Susan Patron presents "You Can Write a Newbery! Ten Tips for Putting the Ultimate Gold Seal on Your Book" for Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, in Hahn School of Nursing. Patron's novel *The Higher Power of Lucky* won the award in 2007. 619-713-5462. Saturday, May 16, 2 p.m.; \$7-\$9. University of San Diego, 5998 Alcalá Park. (LINDA VISTA)

Watercolor Workshop Helen Shafer Garcia presents "contemporary approach to watercolor focusing on the sculptural design of succulent plants." Class spends portion of time painting in gardens. Materials list supplied upon registration. Required registration: 760-436-3036 x206. Sunday, May 17, 9:30 a.m.; \$65-\$75. Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive. (ENCINITAS)

Who Was "World's First Music Entrepreneur"? David Lewis plays music, discusses G.F. Handel for LIFE learning group in room 1068 (1 p.m.). Author Nick Yphantides, M.D., discusses his philosophy on eating (2 p.m.). 760-721-8124. Friday, May 15, 1 p.m.; free. MiraCosta College, One Barnard Drive. (OCEANSIDE)

SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

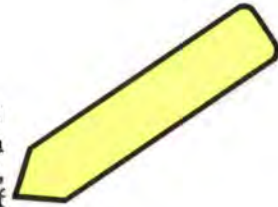
May 1, 2009

Tax conference postponed due to swine flu

Due to the rising concern over the cases of swine flu in Mexico, the United States and the rest of the world, **Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch** and the University of San Diego have postponed their tax conference scheduled for Friday.

The conference has been rescheduled for Oct. 19. Registrations will be carried over so attendees who have already registered for the conference will not need to re-register for the new date.

For more information, visit procopio.com/iti2009. **Source Code: 20090430czd**



SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT

May 4, 2009

OTHER EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 - PROGRAM

THE GREAT DEBATE: DOES THE MARKET REWARD GOOD GOVERNANCE? DO GOVERNANCE RATINGS MATTER?

Two of the leading corporate governance authorities in the United States will square off in a debate about the true value of corporate governance. Participants are Sanjai Bhagat, professor of finance at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and Patrick McGurnand, special counsel at RiskMetrics Group, ISS Governance Services. Debate is moderated by Cynthia Richson, president of Richson Consulting Group, member of the PCAOB Advisory Group, and former head of governance at OPERS and SWIB. More info: www.directorsforum.com **Organization:** Corporate Directors Forum **Information:** 858-455-7930 cdf@directorsforum.com **Cost:** \$55.00- \$75.00 **When:** Hours: 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM **Where:** Hyatt Regency La Jolla, 3777 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, 92122

THURSDAY, MAY 7 - SUMMIT

FIRST SAN DIEGO MICROFINANCE SUMMIT

This summit will highlight the San Diego area's contribution to local and global microfinance and foster new partnerships to expand microfinance initiatives. **Organization:** San Diego Microfinance Summit **Information:** www.sdmicrofinancesummit.org **Cost:** \$10.00- \$25.00 **When:** Hours: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM **Where:** Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace and Justice, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, 92110

MONDAY, MAY 11 - DISCUSSION

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

Finding Hidden Cash in Your Operations. Come join us for a discussion on how companies are finding hidden savings through good times and bad. Event will feature speakers from Qualcomm, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Cushman & Wakefield. Students, military, press and mentor sponsors are FREE. **Organization:** CommNexus **Information:** www.commnexus.org **Cost:** \$20.00- \$30.00 **When:** Hours: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM **Where:** Offices, 12531 High Bluff Drive, San Diego, 92130

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 21, 2009

NIGHT & DAY

EVENTOS LATINOS

SAN DIEGO

MOVIES

"Rudo y Cursi": This Mexican film about two brothers who become soccer rivals is showing in various screens across the county. With Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna; directed by Carlos Cuarón.

LIVE SHOWS

"Daddy Diaries": San Diego-born comedian Rick Najera presents this monologue on paternity. Lyceum Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza, San Diego. Different times. \$20 adults; \$15 students, military and seniors. Tomorrow through Sunday. (619) 544-1000 or sdrep.org.

EXHIBITIONS

Mexican art: A new gallery dedicated to Mexican art features works from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park. (619) 232-7931 or sdma.org.

"Gods & Gold": Pre-Columbian treasures from Mexico to Peru. San Diego Museum of Man, Balboa Park. (619) 239-2001 or museumofman.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

"Mamá, soy Paquito...": May 28. Writer and cultural critic Carlos Monsiváis will give this conference on Mexican popular poetry as part of the series Los Rostros de México at the Peace & Justice Institute, University of San Diego. Sponsored by the Mexican Consulate. 7 p.m. losrostrosdemexico.com.

Emmswiel: May 30. The ballad singer performs with son Alexander Acha. Playas de Tijuana bullring. 8 p.m. 230 to 1,530 pesos. ticketmovil.com.mx.

Julio Iglesias: June 7. The Spanish singer performs at Valley View Casino, Valley Parkway East, Valley Center. 8 p.m. \$55 to \$75. ticketmaster.com.

Los Tucanes de Tijuana: June 14. Norteño. San Diego

County Fair, Del Mar. 7:30 p.m. Free with paid ticket to the fair; reserved tickets, \$27-\$33 for adults, \$22-\$28 for children and seniors. ticketmaster.com.

Vicente Fernández: June 20. Chente shares the stage with Shaila Durcal. Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre, Chula Vista. 8 p.m. \$56.85 to \$136.85. ticketmaster.com.

Café Tacvbat: June 21. The rock en español band celebrates 20 years. Playas de Tijuana bullring. 275 and 500 pesos. ticketmaster.com.mx.

La Arrolladora Banda El Limón and Creadores del Pasito Duranguense: June 21. Banda and Duranguense. San Diego County Fair, Del Mar. 7:30 p.m. Free with paid ticket to the fair; reserved tickets, \$27-\$33 for adults, \$22-\$28 for children and seniors. ticketmaster.com.

Intocable and Patrulla 88: June 28. Norteño and Duranguense. San Diego County Fair, Del Mar. 7:30 p.m. Free with paid ticket to the fair; reserved tickets, \$27-\$33 for adults, \$22-\$28 for children and seniors. ticketmaster.com.

To have your event listed, fax material at least two weeks in advance to (619) 260-5088 or e-mail the information to eventos@mienlace.com. Comments or questions, (619) 293-2027.



Julio Iglesias

ENLACE

May 23, 2009

| A dónde ir |

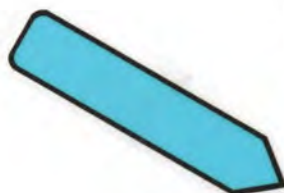
Daddy Diaries

Del viernes 22 al domingo 24

El comediante sandieguino Rick Nájera presenta este monólogo acerca de la paternidad. Lyceum Space Theatre, 79 Horton Plaza. Varios horarios. \$20 y \$15. 619.544.1000 o sdrep.org.

Mamá, soy Paquito...

El escritor Carlos Monsiváis hablará de la poesía popular mexicana en la serie Los Rostros de México; Instituto de Paz y Justicia, en la Universidad de San Diego. Patrocinada por el Consulado General de México en San Diego. 7 p.m.; losrostrosdemexico.com.



SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 28, 2009

NIGHT & DAY

EVENTOS LATINOS

SAN DIEGO

MOVIES

"Rudo y Cursi": This Mexican film about two brothers that become soccer rivals is showing across the county. With Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna; directed by Carlos Cuarón.

LIVE SHOWS

"Mamá, soy Paquito ...": Writer and cultural critic Carlos Monsiváis will give this lecture on Mexican popular poetry as part of the series Los Rostros de México at the Peace & Justice Institute, University of San Diego. Sponsored by the Mexican Consulate. 7 p.m. Today. ostrosdemexico.com.

"Ritmo Caribe": Salsa and other Latin rhythms, performed by musician Manny Cepeda. Skies Lounge, Four Points by Sheraton, 8110 Aero Drive. 8 p.m. Every Wednesday. \$10. Includes buffet. sd-dancebeat.com.

EXHIBITIONS

"Gods & Gold": Pre-Columbian treasures from Mexico to Peru. San Diego Museum of Man, Balboa Park. (619) 239-2001 or museumofman.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Jollo Iglesias: June 7. The singer performs at Valley View Casino, Valley Parkway East, Valley Center. 8 p.m. \$55-\$75. ticketmaster.com.

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Café Tacvba: June 21. The rock en español band celebrates 20 years. Playas de Tijuana bullring. 275 and 350 pesos. ticketmaster.com.mx.

La Arrolladora Banda El Limón and Crendores del Pasito Duranguense: June 21. Banda and Duranguense. San Diego County Fair, Del Mar. 7:30 p.m. Free with paid ticket to the fair; reserved tickets, \$27-\$33 for adults, \$22-\$28 for children and seniors. ticketmaster.com.

Intocable and Patrulla 91: June 28. Norteño and Duranguense. San Diego County Fair, Del Mar. 7:30 p.m. Free with paid ticket to the fair; reserved tickets, \$27-\$33 for adults, \$22-\$28 for children and seniors. ticketmaster.com.

Joan Sebastian: July 19. The singer-songwriter performs with Jenni Rivera and Banda El Recodo. Cox Arena, SDSU. 6 p.m. \$59-\$149. ticketmaster.com.

Ricardo Arjona: Aug. 29. The Guatemalan trovador performs. San Diego Sports Arena. 8 p.m. \$50-\$190; ticketmaster.com.

Gipsy Kings: Sept. 13. Rumba. Pala Palomar Starlight Theater. 7:30 p.m. \$77-\$97. ticketmaster.com.

Marco Antonio Solís and Pepe Aguilar: Oct. 10. The two Mexican singers share the stage at Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre, Chula Vista. 8 p.m. ticketmaster.com.

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Athletics

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 29, 2009

LOCAL BRIEFS

USD's Ching ties for 13th at NCAAs

Staff and Wire Reports

Freshman Alex Ching of the University of San Diego finished tied for 13th in the individual tournament, and the Toreros missed out on qualifying for the match-play portion of the team tournament at the NCAA Division I golf championships at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

Ching, a second-round co-leader, shot a 5-over-par 76 in the third and final round, to finish at 1-over 214.

North Carolina State's Matt Hill made three birdies on the homeward nine holes and held off his closest pursuers to win the individual title with a 6-under 207.

Rickie Fowler of Murrieta closed with a 3-under 68 to tie for third at 210. His Oklahoma State team posted the low score through 54 holes and easily qualified for the eight-team playoff to deter-

mine the team champion.

For the first time this year, the NCAA team title will be decided by three rounds of match play, which will be contested on Friday and Saturday. USD shot 877 as a team, good for 13th place, and missed the team playoff by 8 strokes.

The second round was suspended for 4½ hours by a thunderstorm, requiring almost half the field to come back Thursday morning to pick up where they left off when darkness fell Wednesday night. The third round began at mid-morning, but the rain held off, although the deep rough was particularly thick and troublesome because it was so wet.

USC, playing without Jamie Lovemark (Torrey Pines), who has a cracked rib, started the round tied for 12th but climbed all the way

into a tie for third with Arkansas and Washington, going 5 under on the day.


SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 29, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

Toreros fare well on fairway

UNION-TRIBUNE



The teams in the NCAA Men's Division I Golf Championship recorded more than 850 shots over 54 holes, and it was only eight strokes yesterday that kept USD from furthering its improbable run toward a national title.

The 63rd-ranked Toreros, in their first appearance in the finals, shot their best score of the tournament in the third round, 291, but lost ground and finished in 13th after 54 holes in Toledo, Ohio. The top eight teams out of 30 advanced into today's first round of match play, and USD was eight shots behind the teams that tied for seventh — No. 2 Georgia and No. 14 Texas A&M.

Top-ranked Oklahoma State, led by Murrieta product Rickie Fowler, scored 281 in the third round, shot 3-under overall and finished six shots better than runner-up Arizona State. Fowler tied for third at 3-under, three strokes behind North Carolina State's Matt Hill, the individual cham-

pion who shot three 69s at the Inverness Club.

USD freshman Alex Ching was tied for the lead after he finished his rain-delayed second round yesterday morning, shooting a 68 after he'd scored 30 on the front nine. But Ching, 19, couldn't make a birdie against five bogeys in the third round, shot 76 and tied for 13th.

Sophomore Gunner Wiebe led the Toreros in the third round, scoring 69. Senior Blake Trimble (Torrey Pines) scored 71, Jason Shano 75 and Ian Coffman 80.

—TOD LEONARD

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Posted on: Thursday, May 28, 2009

Punahou alum Alex Ching shoots 76, finishes tied for 13th at NCAA

Advertiser Staff and News Services

University of San Diego freshman Alex Ching, a 2008 Punahou School graduate who was tied for the lead after completing a second round 3-under 68 this morning, shot 5-over 76 in the final round to finish 13th in the NCAA Division I men's golf championships in Toledo, Ohio.

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Arizona State's Chan Kim, a former state champion from Kaimuki High School who moved to the Mainland while an undergraduate, shot a 1-under 70 today to finish at 3-over 216. He shot 75-71 in his earlier rounds.

Matt Hill of North Carolina State shot his third consecutive 69 to finish at 6-under 207 for a two-stroke victory.

Ching, whose second round was halted because of darkness Wednesday, returned today to finish at 4-under 138, tied with Russell Henley of Georgia (67) and Hill (69), a stroke ahead of Bronson Burgoon (67) of Texas A&M.

But Ching started the third and final round with four bogeys on his front nine to make the turn at 4-over 39, even overall. He had another bogey to finish 1-over overall at 214, tied for 13th with a few golfers still playing.

Hill is golfing as an individual as his North Carolina State team is not entered.

Kyle Stanley of Clemson finished two shots back at 4-under overall 209.

Ching, who shot a 1-under 70 on Tuesday, was 5-under through 11 holes and the on-course leader Wednesday when darkness halted his round following a four-hour-plus rain delay.

He tore up the front nine with three birdies and an eagle to shoot 5-under 30 and get to 6-under for the tournament. But consecutive bogeys on Nos. 12 and 13 and another bogey on No. 15 dropped him to 2 under before a birdie on the par-4 18th.

Because of the rain delay, nearly half the field had to complete the second round today before the final round of medal play.

In a new format, an individual champion was determined after 54 holes. Those 54 holes also will cut the field to a final eight teams for match play to determine the team title.

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NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 28, 2009

onship at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

Hill, a co-leader after the opening 18 holes, shot a second consecutive 2-under 69 and was at 4-under 138. Georgia had a 1-over 573 total through 36 holes, five shots back of Oklahoma State. The top eight teams through 54 holes of medal play advance to match-play quarterfinals. The individual winner will be decided through 54 holes.

Threatening weather suspended play for 4½ hours, leaving almost half the field still on the course when darkness fell. Play will resume early this morning, with the third round to follow.

Still on the course, University of San Diego freshman Alex Ching got off to a torrid start on his round before darkness suspended play. With three birdies and an eagle at No. 8, he was 5 under through 10 holes to get to 6 under for the tournament.

USD's Ching in contention

North Carolina State's Matt Hill eagled his next-to-last hole to tie Georgia's Russell Henley for the medal lead in the weather-delayed second round of the NCAA Division I men's golf champi-

Titans colliding for national title

• Check out *Golfweek's* complete 2009 NCAA postseason coverage

• *Golfweek's* NCAA Championship blog

By SEAN MARTIN

Assistant Editor

TOLEDO, Ohio – If a golf course is measured by its ability to identify the best players, then Inverness Club had the most successful day during the first round of the NCAA Division I Men's Championship.

No teams and only eight individuals broke par Tuesday at the four-time U.S. Open site, but the fortunate few who found success were also the best the country has to offer.

No. 1 Oklahoma State and second-ranked Georgia finished the first round tied for the lead at 4-over 288, four shots better than Chattanooga, the team that started the season ranked No. 1.

North Carolina State's Matt Hill, the leading candidate to be named this year's player of the year, shot 2-under 69 to tie for the individual lead with Northwestern's Jonathan Bowers and Illinois' Scott Langley. Five players shot 70, including Washington's Nick Taylor, a leading player of the year candidate, and UCLA's Philip Francis.

It's no coincidence that Georgia and Oklahoma State were atop the leaderboard. Georgia seems to win every year at Inverness, a course tough enough for Tiger Woods to call home. Oklahoma State's home course, Karsten Creek, is one of the toughest in the country, as evidenced by the Cowboys' winning score of 17-over-par 881 at the NCAA South Central Regional two weeks ago.

"We like the challenge of hard courses," said Georgia's Russell Henley, who tied for low score on the team with an even-par 71. Neither team had a player shoot a sub-par round, but 73 was the highest score either team had to use.

The surprise of the day was San Diego, the last team to earn an at-large bid for the postseason. The Toreros shot 293 and are tied for fourth with Washington, another one of the pretournament favorites.

Chattanooga is starting to play more like the team that won its first two tournaments of the season, including the prestigious Carpet Capital Collegiate, than the one that finished 10th or worse in four of five stroke-play events in the middle of the season.

The Mocs have gone 2-1-3 in their past three starts, including a win at the Southern Conference Championship and third-place finish at the NCAA South Central Regional.

"We talked about getting off to a good start (at NCAAs)," head coach Mark Guhne said. "That's one thing we didn't do during that stretch in the middle of the year. We were always battling uphill."

Chattanooga's Fredrik Quicker led the team with an even-par 71. Derek Rende shot 73, while Jonathan Hodge and Jaeger shot 74s.

Rende and Hodge are entering their third consecutive week of competition, having played the Tennessee Open in the week between regionals and the finals. Rende tied for 15th, while Hodge was 36th. Former Moc Bryce Ledford won the event.

The Mocs used one interesting tactic to take the early lead in the first round of the NCAA Division I Men's Championship. They laid up on a par 3.

Stephan Jaeger, Rende and Hodge purposely hit short of the green on the par-3 third hole, which played 186 yards Tuesday, in order to avoid the lake right of the green. Jaeger and Rende got up-and-down for pars.

The third hole is the start of a brutal five-hole stretch. The Mocs' four scorers played Nos. 3-7 in 10 over par en route to their 8-over 292, the low score of the morning wave.

"I think the key for anybody this week is playing Nos. 3-7 pretty well," Chattanooga head coach Mark Guhne said. "You're going to make bogeys there, but have to avoid the big numbers."

Oklahoma State played those holes 9 over, while Georgia was only 1 over on the stretch.

"Those are definitely going to be the deciding factor this week," Henley said. "Those holes are so long and the greens are not that big. Once you hit the fairway, you still have a lot of work to do."

The same can be said for the eventual champion, whoever it may be. They still have to face two more rounds of stroke play before embarking on three rounds of match play.

...

Sean Martin is a *Golfweek* assistant editor. To reach him e-mail smartin@golfweek.com.

Scores with relation to par from the first round of the NCAA Men's Championship, played May 26 at the par-71, 7,255-yard Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio (Note: y-played as individual):

TEAMS

1. Oklahoma State	288	+ 4
1. Georgia	288	+ 4
3. Chattanooga	292	+ 8
4. Washington	293	+ 9
4. San Diego	293	+ 9
6. Arizona State	294	+ 10
6. Ohio State	294	+ 10
6. Tennessee	294	+ 10
9. Michigan	296	+ 12
10. Arkansas	297	+ 13
10. Duke	297	+ 13
12. Texas A&M	298	+ 14
12. Northwestern	298	+ 14
12. Alabama	298	+ 14
15. Illinois	299	+ 15
15. TCU	299	+ 15
17. UCF	300	+ 16
18. Georgia Tech	301	+ 17
18. Iowa	301	+ 17
20. Wake Forest	302	+ 18
21. Texas Tech	303	+ 19
22. Southern California	305	+ 21
22. Stanford	305	+ 21
22. South Carolina	305	+ 21
25. Oregon	306	+ 22
25. Virginia	306	+ 22
25. UCLA	306	+ 22
28. Texas	308	+ 24
29. Florida	310	+ 26
29. Arizona	310	+ 26

INDIVIDUALS

1. Jonathan Bowers, Northwestern	69	-2
1. Scott Langlev, Illinois	69	-2
1. v-Matt Hill, N.C. St.	69	-2
4. Alex Ching, San Diego	70	-1
4. Tom Hoge, TCU	70	-1
4. Philip Francis, UCLA	70	-1
4. David Holmes, Tennessee	70	-1
4. Nick Taylor, Washington	70	-1
9. Simon Ward, UCF	71	E
9. Fredrik Ovicker, Chattanooga	71	E
9. v-Corey Nagv, Charlotte	71	E
9. Russell Henlev, Georgia	71	E
9. Trent Leon, Oklahoma St.	71	E
9. Jamie Marshall, Arkansas	71	E
9. Brian Harman, Georgia	71	E
16. Brad Wright, Ohio St.	72	+ 1
16. Vaughn Snyder, Ohio St.	72	+ 1
16. Alexander Sitompul, Michigan	72	+ 1
16. Clark Klaasen, Duke	72	+ 1
16. Lion Kim, Michigan	72	+ 1
16. Morgan Hoffmann, Oklahoma St.	72	+ 1
16. Rickie Fowler, Oklahoma St.	72	+ 1
16. Jesper Kennegard, Arizona St.	72	+ 1
16. Darren Wallace, Washington	72	+ 1
16. Chesson Hadley, Georgia Tech	72	+ 1
16. Bronson Burgoon, Texas A&M	72	+ 1
16. v-Hugues Joannes, Lamar	72	+ 1
16. v-Kyle Stanley, Clemson	72	+ 1
29. Derek Rende, Chattanooga	73	+ 2
29. Daniel Meggs, Wake Forest	73	+ 2
29. Michael Quagliano, Duke	73	+ 2
29. Adam Long, Duke	73	+ 2
29. Matthew Swan, Alabama	73	+ 2

29. Peter Uihlein, Oklahoma St.	73	+ 2
29. Harris English, Georgia	73	+ 2
29. Scott Pinckney, Arizona St.	73	+ 2
29. Hunter Hamrick, Alabama	73	+ 2
29. Hudson Swafford, Georgia	73	+ 2
29. Robin Wingardh, Tennessee	73	+ 2
29. Steve Ziegler, Stanford	73	+ 2
41. Rich Saferian, Arizona	74	+ 3
41. Stephan Jaeger, Chattanooga	74	+ 3
41. Jonathan Hodge, Chattanooga	74	+ 3
41. Michael Cress, Ohio St.	74	+ 3
41. Lance Lopez, Texas	74	+ 3
41. Jason Shano, San Diego	74	+ 3
41. Ian Coffman, San Diego	74	+ 3
41. Vince India, Iowa	74	+ 3
41. Cole Peevler, Iowa	74	+ 3
41. Kevin Tway, Oklahoma St.	74	+ 3
41. Knut Borsheim, Arizona St.	74	+ 3
41. Cameron Tringale, Georgia Tech	74	+ 3
41. Tom Glissmeyer, USC	74	+ 3
41. Matthew Giles, USC	74	+ 3
41. Mark Silvers II, South Carolina	74	+ 3
56. Chris Ward, Texas Tech	75	+ 4
56. Eugene Wong, Oregon	75	+ 4
56. Blayne Barber, UCF	75	+ 4
56. Daniel Miernicki, Oregon	75	+ 4
56. Josh Dupont, Northwestern	75	+ 4
56. Ben Kohles, Virginia	75	+ 4
56. Eric Chun, Northwestern	75	+ 4
56. Lee Bedford, Wake Forest	75	+ 4
56. Blake Trimble, San Diego	75	+ 4
56. Matt Thompson, Michigan	75	+ 4
56. James Sacheck, TCU	75	+ 4
56. Spencer Cole, Alabama	75	+ 4
56. Chan Kim, Arizona St.	75	+ 4
56. Chris Killmer, Washington	75	+ 4
56. Conrad Shindler, Texas A&M	75	+ 4
56. David Lingmerth, Arkansas	75	+ 4
56. John Hurley, Texas A&M	75	+ 4
56. Andrew Landry, Arkansas	75	+ 4
56. Chris Paisley, Tennessee	75	+ 4
75. Brian Scherer, Texas Tech	76	+ 5
75. Nils Floren, Texas Tech	76	+ 5
75. Garrett Merrell, Texas Tech	76	+ 5
75. Brad Smith, Ohio St.	76	+ 5
75. Barrett Kelpin, Iowa	76	+ 5
75. v-Cody Paladino, Baylor	76	+ 5
75. Stephan Gross, Arizona St.	76	+ 5
75. Billy Horschel, Florida	76	+ 5
75. Darren Renwick, Tennessee	76	+ 5
75. Matt Van Zandt, Texas A&M	76	+ 5
75. Ethan Tracy, Arkansas	76	+ 5
75. Richard Lee, Washington	76	+ 5
75. Luke Guthrie, Illinois	76	+ 5
75. John Tyler Griffin, Georgia Tech	76	+ 5
75. Andrea Pavan, Texas A&M	76	+ 5
75. Wesley Bryan, South Carolina	76	+ 5
75. George Bryan IV, South Carolina	76	+ 5
75. Dodge Kemmer, Stanford	76	+ 5
93. Devin Spies, UCF	77	+ 6
93. Brad Schneider, UCF	77	+ 6
93. Bruce Woodall, Virginia	77	+ 6
93. Dylan Frittelli, Texas	77	+ 6
93. Will Collins, Virginia	77	+ 6
93. Tarquin MacManus, Arizona	77	+ 6
93. Kyle Stough, Virginia	77	+ 6
93. Travis Wadkins, Wake Forest	77	+ 6
93. Travis Woolf, TCU	77	+ 6
93. Bo Hoag, Ohio St.	77	+ 6
93. Dustin Groves, Wake Forest	77	+ 6
93. Johan de Beer, TCU	77	+ 6
93. Brendan Gielow, Wake Forest	77	+ 6
93. Brad Hopfinger, Iowa	77	+ 6

93. Bill Rankin, Michigan	77	+ 6
93. Matt Hughes, Alabama	77	+ 6
93. Tyson Alexander, Florida	77	+ 6
93. Gregor Main, UCLA	77	+ 6
93. Tze Huang Choo, Washington	77	+ 6
93. Garrick Porteous, Tennessee	77	+ 6
93. Jason Cuthbertson, Arkansas	77	+ 6
93. Matt Hoffman, Illinois	77	+ 6
93. Chris DeForest, Illinois	77	+ 6
93. Sihwan Kim, Stanford	77	+ 6
117. Andrew Vijarro, Oregon	78	+ 7
117. David Johnson, UCF	78	+ 7
117. Ben Rickett, Chattanooga	78	+ 7
117. Santiago Rivas, Texas Tech	78	+ 7
117. Robbie Ziegler, Oregon	78	+ 7
117. Donald Constable, Texas	78	+ 7
117. Gunner Wiebe, San Diego	78	+ 7
117. v-Brady Johnson, Brigham Young	78	+ 7
117. Tobv Ragland, Florida	78	+ 7
117. Steve Lim, USC	78	+ 7
127. Jonathan Khan, Arizona	79	+ 8
127. Bobby Hudson, Texas	79	+ 8
127. David Lipsky, Northwestern	79	+ 8
127. Matthew Pierce, Duke	79	+ 8
127. Will Strickler, Florida	79	+ 8
127. Connor Driscoll, UCLA	79	+ 8
127. Adam Mitchell, Georgia	79	+ 8
127. David Dragoo, Georgia Tech	79	+ 8
127. James White, Georgia Tech	79	+ 8
127. Daniel Lim, Stanford	79	+ 8
127. Patrick Rada, South Carolina	79	+ 8
127. Tim Sluiter, USC	79	+ 8
139. Isaiah Telles, Oregon	80	+ 9
139. Tyler Neal, Arizona	80	+ 9
139. Conrad von Borsig, Virginia	80	+ 9
139. Chris Brant, Iowa	80	+ 9
139. Tim McKenney, Florida	80	+ 9
139. Erik Flores, UCLA	80	+ 9
145. Philip Bagdade, Arizona	81	+ 10
145. Sam Chien, Northwestern	81	+ 10
145. Wes Roach, Duke	81	+ 10
145. Nick Pumford, Michigan	81	+ 10
145. Alex Kim, UCLA	81	+ 10
145. Zach Barlow, Illinois	81	+ 10
145. Ryan Linton, USC	81	+ 10
145. David Chung, Stanford	81	+ 10
153. Scott Roudebush, TCU	82	+ 11
154. Sam Braver, South Carolina	84	+ 13
155. Charlie Holland, Texas	87	+ 16
155. Bud Cauley, Alabama	87	+ 16



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Posted on: Thursday, May 28, 2009

Punahou alum Ching tied for NCAA golf lead after second round

Advertiser Staff and News Services

University of San Diego freshman Alex Ching, a 2008 Punahou School graduate, was tied for the lead after completing a second round 3-under 68 this morning in the NCAA Division I men's golf championships in Toledo, Ohio.

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Ching was at 4-under 138 with Russell Henley of Georgia (67) and Matt Hill of North Carolina State (69), a stroke ahead of Bronson Burgoon (67) of Texas A&M. Five golders are at 140. The third and final round is scheduled for this afternoon.

Ching, who shot a 1-under 70 on Tuesday, was 5-under through 11 holes and the on-course leader yesterday when darkness halted his round following a rain delay. But consecutive bogeys on Nos. 12 and 13 and another bogey on No. 15 dropped him to 2 under before a birdie on the par-4 18th.

Rain delayed play for slightly more than four hours yesterday and nearly half the field had to complete the second round today before the final round of medal play.

In a new format, an individual champion will be determined after 54 holes. Those 54 holes also will cut the field to a final eight teams for match play to determine the team title.

Ching yesterday tore up the front nine with three birdies and an eagle to shoot 5-under 30 and get to 6-under for the tournament.

Arizona State's Chan Kim, a former state champion from Kaimuki High School, shot 71—146.

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SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 27, 2009

Ching leads way for USD golf

Freshman Alex Ching has given the upstart USD men's golf team a chance to make a run at the Elite Eight.

Ching was one of only eight players in a 156-man field to break par yesterday, shooting a 1-under 70 at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, to get into a tie for fourth after the first round of the 112th NCAA Division I Championships.

The surprising Toreros, ranked 63rd in the country by *Golfweek*, scored 9-over as a team to tie for fourth place in the 30-team field. They need to be in the top eight after 54 holes are completed tomorrow to land in the match play portion of the team championship.

Top-ranked Georgia and No. 2 Oklahoma State were tied for the lead at 4-over on a course that has hosted four U.S. Opens. They were followed by Chattanooga at 8-over. USD was tied with No. 6 Washington.

Ching, the WCC Freshman of the Year, was tied with four others, only one shot off the lead of a trio of players Northwestern's Jonathan Bowers, Illinois' Scott Langley and North Carolina State's Matt Hill. Ching went into the tournament as the 139th-ranked player in the country. Ian Coffman and Jason Shano scored 74 for the Toreros, while Blake Trimble shot 75 and Gunner Wiebe 78.

—TOD LEONARD

Golf TOD LEONARD

Toreros are on the rise

Tim Mickelson has been talking about a national golf championship for the USD men's team since he arrived on campus six years ago. It has always seemed over-the-top optimistic, given the Toreros' track record.

Before Mickelson got there, USD was mired in mediocrity. It just didn't seem like the program was trying very hard to get to the next level.

The Toreros never had won a West Coast Conference championship, despite being in the middle of a golf hotbed for junior players. They never had been to the NCAA regionals, which made it impossible to fathom a national title.

The tournaments they entered had to be close enough to get to by van, because they didn't have the budget to fly.

Enter Mickelson, who, after serving as an assistant coach at San Diego State, took the job knowing full well it was all on his shoulders to put the program on the map in recruiting, fundraising and results on the golf course.

"When I got here, we did not have the ingredients to be successful in men's golf," Mickelson said. "When I told everybody what my vision was, most people looked at me and said it couldn't be done."

The San Diego native has enjoyed proving them wrong.

In an impressive rise, USD has reached this week's NCAA Division I Championship for the first time. When they begin play today in the 30-team field at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, the 63rd-ranked Toreros will be an extreme long shot, up against established, talent- and money-rich powerhouses such as Oklahoma State, Georgia and USC.

Being there, though, is another step forward in the Mickelson plan.

"Personally, this means a lot," Mickelson said. "I wanted to build a team that had a chance to win the national championship, and you can't do that unless you're in the tournament. I think this validates the type of program we're building here."

Three of Mickelson's starters for the NCAA finals are underclassmen, including WCC Freshman of the Year Alex Ching. Mickelson got senior Blake Trimble as a transfer from UNLV last year, and the Torrey Pines High alum has been a big contributor. The coach also took an instinctual chance on walk-on graduate student Ian Coffman (St. Augustine), and the former college soccer player led the Toreros to a fourth-place finish in the West Regional.

"We are seeing the fruits of Tim's labor," said USD Athletic Director Ky Snyder. "He's got high energy. He's got lofty goals. He takes responsibility for getting things done. He epitomizes a head coach."

These days, that means you have to be a success off the course before you can consider winning. Mickelson is up against schools that have large endowments for their golf programs and fly to tournaments in their own private jets.

Playing catch-up, Mickelson has hustled to raise money. For the past three years, he has staged a golf tournament at Del Mar Country Club that has raised more than \$100,000. Phil Mickelson, his brother and the No. 2 golfer in the world, pitches in by giving rare one-on-one lessons to participants. Callaway contributes valuable tee prizes.

Tim Mickelson played the first three years

at Arizona State before transferring to Oregon State, where he finished second in the Pac-10 Championships as a senior. Still, he sometimes acts and talks as if he is a USD alum.

Near the campus, you might see a guy driving a huge Ford Excursion with a massive Toreros logo on the side. That's Tim Mickelson in the team "bus" a booster bought for the team. The vehicle is rather conspicuous in a country club parking lot when Mickelson takes it to tournaments.

Mickelson said he feels a close association to USD because he went to high school across the street at USDHS and his sister, Tina, graduated from USD in 1991.

Support for Amy

In the aftermath of the announcement last week that Amy Mickelson has breast cancer, there was a flood of support offered to the family. One of the most touching efforts came from Darren Clarke, the European Ryder Cupper who lost his wife, Heather, to breast cancer in August 2006.

Clarke spoke to Phil Mickelson on the phone and recalled for reporters the support the Mickelsons gave him during the 2006 Ryder Cup.

"(Phil) and Amy helped me through that Ryder Cup, walking on and off with me at the opening ceremony and closing ceremony," Clarke said. "Then Amy took my arm and they took me to the other side, which was supposed to be for players and their wives. Amy got involved in that. They have been very kind to me."

"I've been through the whole thing,"

Clarke said. "I know the layman's terms for some of the things they say, and I'm only too happy and keen to pass on whatever little tidbits I can — what's coming, the ups and downs, what to expect."

"Friendship is more than just golf. You try to help in any way at all. Hopefully, they have caught it early."

For this week's Crowne Plaza Invitational at Colonial, a "pink out" is planned for Saturday. Competitors and fans are being asked to don pink clothes or ribbons to show support for Amy Mickelson.

Senior rates update

For a meeting last week of the city's Park and Recreation Board, Golf Manager Jon Maddern prepared a report that recommended that senior rates for golfers at Torrey Pines, Balboa and Mission Bay should be retained, rather than establishing a low-income golf fee.

City staff had been asked to look into a low-income fee when Mayor Jerry Sanders' five-year golf plan was approved in 2006.

Maddern said in the report he believed more seniors (62 and older) would benefit from the 30-percent discount they now receive than if they were required to qualify for a low-income waiver, which would have a threshold of \$14,933 for one person in a household and \$24,463 for two people.

Maddern's report said 17 percent of rounds at city courses were played by seniors in fiscal year 2008, resulting in \$298,000 in discounts.

The Park and Recreation Board postponed consideration of the item.

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Early interest key to USD's signing Ching

By Ted Leonard
STAFF WRITER

If Alex Ching had not been surrounded by a gaggle of teenaged girls one year in the Callaway Junior World Championships at Torrey Pines, USD men's golf coach Tim Mickelson might not have noticed him.

Mickelson had never seen the then-15-year-old Hawaiian swing a golf club, but he figured there must be something special about the kid to attract such a crowd from the females on his team.

"I figured he was either quite the ladies man or a great golfer," Mickelson says now with a chuckle.

It turned out Ching could be a charmer both on and off the course, and that one chance spotting by Mickelson has been a boon to both the player and USD.

Appreciative of Mickelson showing interest in him long before he'd worked his game into college-level shape, Ching chose USD, and he has been an instrumental part in the Toreros reaching this week's NCAA Division I Golf Championships for the first time in school history.

The only Torero to play in every event this season, Ching led USD in scoring average (71.73) and was chosen as the Freshman of the Year by the coaches in the West Coast Conference.

Ching, 19, laughed when reminded about the girls at the Junior World. He said they were all friends of his because the Hawaiians were such a close-knit team. He had no idea what the attention would mean to him.

Soon after Junior World, Mickelson watched Ching play a tournament in Temecula and was encouraged enough to write his name down as a future recruit.

"He saw me at the right time, so I'm pretty stoked," Ching said.

With a love for fishing and surfing while growing up in eastern Oahu, Ching desired to go to college near the ocean, and he said he ultimately had to choose between Pepperdine and USD. That was significant, because Pepperdine has been the perennial power in the WCC, and Mickelson said he hadn't won a recruiting battle against the Waves in his six years as head coach.

"I honestly thought he was going to go to Pepperdine," Mickelson said. "It was a big thing for us for him to come to USD. To be able to win one, I was quite thrilled."

Ching said it was all about Mickelson's confidence in him. "I really felt like I could spend the next four years with Tim as my coach," he said. "I couldn't have asked for a better coach."

A multi-sport athlete growing up, Ching didn't draw a lot of attention from college golf coaches because he didn't play high school golf until his senior season. Before that, he was part of a state championship doubles tennis team. His partner, Erik Shoji, also was a two-sport star who is now playing volleyball at Stanford.

Both boys decided to play two spring sports their senior season, and their respective coaches worked out their schedules. When the golf campaign came around, Ching had become one of the top young players in Hawaii. He won several prestigious events in the islands, including the state high school title and the 100th Manoa Cup, and he captured the Optimist title in Florida.

"In the Optimist tournament, I hit a ball on the first tee, and I told myself how lucky I was to be playing golf," Ching said. "I had nothing to worry



USD coach Tim Mickelson (left) and freshman Alex Ching confer. K.C. Alfred / Union-Tribune

NCAA Men's Division I Golf Championships

When: Today-Saturday

Where: Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, site of four U.S. Open championships

Format: Thirty schools compete in 54 holes of stroke play, with the top-eight scoring teams advancing to match play during match play, there will be five singles matches, each counting for one point. The individual champion is the top scorer after 54 holes.

The favorites: Oklahoma State, led by Kevin Tway and Murietta product Rickie Fowler, is the nation's top-rated team in the Golfweek/Sagarin rankings. The Cowboys are followed by Georgia, USC, Washington, Stanford and Florida. No. 15 UCLA is the defending champion.

USD outlook: Coach Tim Mickelson's 63rd-ranked Toreros are in their first NCAA finals. They have shown an ability to overcome long odds by barely making the regionals, and then becoming the lowest-seeded regional team (12th) to advance to the finals. USD has an interesting mix of youth and experience. Ian Coffman, the team's best player of late, is a graduate student, and Blake Trimble (Torrey Pines) is a senior. The other three starters are underclassmen — WCC Freshman Player of the Year Alex Ching, and sophomores Gunner Wiebe and Jason Shano. Wiebe is the son of former Escondido resident and PGA Tour player Mark Wiebe.

Live scoring: www.golfstat.com

about but getting the ball in the hole. That was one of the biggest things for me, and I've kept that attitude. I'll sing to myself as I walk down the fairway. I try to keep a smile on my face."

One of Ching's career highlights is winning a qualifier to play in the PGA Tour's 2008 Sony Open in Hawaii. He shot back-to-back 72s to miss the cut by three shots, but the experience was priceless. Everything about the week dazzled him, and he came away with some great stories to tell. Those include flipping a large divot into the chest of Billy Mayfair on the practice range.

This college season has had a fateful feel to it for Ching. He said his best friend growing up was his grandfather, Francis Ching, whom he called *Gung Gung* — Chinese for grandpa. Ching's grandfather badly missed him when he went off to college, but they talked on the phone several times a week. Francis Ching and the rest of Alex's family were thrilled to watch him in person last November as he finished fourth and USD won its only team title of the season, the Kauai Collegiate. Three months later, USD was on Oahu for another tournament, but Francis Ching was in the hospital, battling the final stages of cancer. After a practice round, Alex drove to the hospital. "It was awesome," Ching said. "I told Gung Gung about all that we were going to do when he got out of the hospital. He was the most selfless guy. He had this oxygen mask on, and he said, 'Don't worry about me, Alex. Just focus, focus, focus.'"

Francis Ching died the next day while Alex was playing his first round in the tournament. "That was tough," Ching said, "but it was amazing that I got that one last chance to be with him."

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NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 19, 2009



MEN'S GOLF

■ Point Loma Nazarene earned an at-large spot and is one of 36 teams that will play in the NAIA Championships that start Tuesday at the TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill.

■ The University of San Diego placed fourth at the western regional tournament to advance to the NCAA championships on May 26-30 at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio. Three Toreros finished in the top 30, led by Ian Coffman's 12th place finish at 5-under-par 211. Alex Ching was three strokes back at 2-under 214, while teammate Jason Shano finished a 2-over 218.

■ San Diego State placed seventh at the western regional tournament in Daly City, missing a berth in the NCAA championships.

WOMEN'S GOLF

■ Jeanette Washburn, who helped Palomar College to third place in the community college state championships last fall, has committed to Jamestown College. Washburn, who has been accepted into Jamestown's nursing program, is the first four-year college scholarship recipient for Palomar's two-year-old women's golf team. She had a season-best round of 76 at El Prado Golf Club in Chino Hills.

■ Cal State San Marcos finished its season, taking 10th place at the NAIA championships. Sophomores Roxanne Mejia and Linnei de Villa led the way, tying for 21st and 26th, respectively.

BASEBALL

■ Point Loma Nazarene is seeded third in the eight-team, double-elimination NAIA World Series that opens Friday at Lewis-Clark College in Lewiston, Idaho.

■ UC San Diego captured the NCAA west regional title, beating Sonoma State 12-4 on Sunday afternoon in Kelser, Oregon. The win sent the Tritons to their Divi-

sion II national championships for the first time in school history. Vance Albitz was named tournament Most Valuable Player.

■ Four Cal State San Marcos players were named to the Cascade Conference and regional grouping all-conference team. Catcher Scott Clement (La Costa Canyon), designated hitter Dane Ponciano, third baseman Austin Coleman, and outfielder James Scott were all recognized.

SOFTBALL

■ UC San Diego sophomore outfielder Kristyn Lesovsky was voted the 2009 NCAA Division II west region player of the year. Freshman pitcher Camille Gaito was second team. Lesovsky hit a conference-high .446 with 42 runs, 17 doubles, eight homers, 32 RBIs, and 44 walks.

TRACK AND FIELD

■ Palomar College's Adriana Paz finished ninth in the 400-meter intermediate hurdles at Saturday's community college state championships, running 1 minute, 7.80 seconds.

■ San Diego State's Nicole Stone won the 400 (52.81) and Karoline Koehler took the triple jump (43 feet, 4¼ inches) at the 2009 Mountain West Conference championships at Wyoming. Koehler was named the High Point Performer.

— John Maffei

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 17, 2009

Men's golf

USD is heading to its first NCAA championships after finishing fourth in the West Regional at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City. The Toreros, seeded 11th in the 13-team regional, shot 283 in the final round and finished at 15-under for 54 holes, 21 shots behind winner Arizona State. The championship will be played May 26-30 in Toledo, Ohio.

With the top five teams advancing, Oregon was second, Texas A&M third, and No. 2-ranked USC was fifth. Fourth-seeded San Diego State finished alone in seventh, four shots behind the Trojans.

USD had three golfers finish in the top 25, led by senior Ian Coffman (St. Augustine), who tied for 12th. Blake Trimble (Torrey Pines) tied for 18th, and Alex Ching tied for 24th. Rounding out USD's effort, Jason Shano tied for 43rd and Gunner Wiebe tied for 66th.

Johan Carlsson was SDSU's top player, tying for 18th. Oregon freshman Daniel Miernicki (Cathedral Catholic) tied for seventh, five shots behind medalist Jesper Kenegard of Arizona State.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 16, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

24 hits catapult UCSD to win over W. Oregon

UNION-TRIBUNE

No. 2 UCSD crushed No. 18 Western Oregon 18-3 last night in the winner's bracket game at the NCAA West Regionals in Keizer, Ore.

The Tritons (38-12) out-hit Western Oregon (34-13) 24-13 as Vance Albitz and Josh Tanner had four hits apiece with Garrett Imeson, Robert Sedin and Kellen Lee contributing three hits apiece to back up Trevor Decker (9-2), who allowed just one earned run over seven innings.

More baseball

Host Utah cranked out 16 hits in a 15-5 win over SDSU in Mountain West Conference action. The loss for SDSU (36-19, 14-9) guarantees that the Aztecs won't get a first-round bye into the MWC Tournament next week.

SDSU starter Ryan O'Leary was roughed up for two earned runs over 2 1/3 innings. The Aztecs had 12 hits against the Utes (31-27, 8-15).

Men's golf

The USD men's golf team is poised to reach the NCAA Championships for the first time in school history. The Toreros shot 10-under par in the second round and moved up to third heading into today's final round of the West Regional at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City.

The top five teams from the 13-team regional reach the championship tournament May 26-30 in Toledo, and at 10-under overall, 11th-seeded USD is five shots ahead of sixth-place USF. Fourth-seeded SDSU is struggling in eighth place at 3-under.

USD freshman Alex Ching (69) and senior Ian Coffman (70) are tied for 13th at 3-under along with SDSU's Alex Kang (69). Gunner Wiebe shot a team-best 68 for USD after an opening 76.

Women's golf

Cal State San Marcos took 10th place at the NAIA National Championships. Roxanne Mejia and Linnel de Villa led the way, finishing tied for 21st and 26th, respectively, at Meadowbrook Country Club in South Dakota.

Softball

Tyler Lent threw a three-hitter and was 3-for-3 as PLNU beat McKendree (Ill.) 4-0 at the NAIA national championships in Decatur, Ala. PLNU (46-11) needs a win today over Madonna (Mich.) to advance to the championship bracket.

Track and field

SDSU's Karoline Koehler won the long jump at the MWC Outdoor Championships at Wyoming with a leap of 20 feet, 9 1/4 inches.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 15, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

UCSD baseball rallies for opening victory

FROM NEWS SERVICES

The UC San Diego baseball team recovered from a rare poor start by Tim Shibuya to get off to a flying start in the NCAA Division II Western Regionals.

Tritons
11
CSUDH
10

Shibuya lasted just 4 1/3 innings as the second-ranked Tritons (37-12) fell behind 10-5 yesterday before rallying for an 11-10 victory over Cal State Dominguez Hills (34-22) in Keizer, Ore.

"This was Shibuya's first bad start all season. . . . And as we have done all year, when someone struggles, we have been able to pick them up," UCSD head coach Dan O'Brien said in a news release.

Shibuya, who came in with a 1.81 ERA, gave up six runs on nine hits against the Toros, who built their 10-5 lead with a four-run seventh.

But UCSD rallied in its half of the seventh, scoring four times to pull within 10-9. Then, in the eighth, Kyle Saul tied it with a sacrifice fly before two passed balls allowed Robert Sedin to score the go-ahead run.

UCSD plays at 6 p.m. today in the winner's bracket against host Western Oregon, which defeated Sonoma State 3-1 yesterday.

Around the area

- Wes Kartch and Tyler Kueh each hit two homers, leading PLNU baseball team to a 10-5 victory over host Azusa Pacific University in the 10-team NAIA West Series from May 22-24 in Pocatello, Idaho.

- The men's teams of SDSU and USD have some catching up to do after the first round of the NCAA West Regional at Lake Merced. With the top five finishers after 54 holes advancing to the finals, the Aztecs are sixth (2-under) and the

Toreros seventh (even). Arizona State leads at 9-under, with USC fifth at 3-under. Johan Carlsson paced SDSU with a 2-under 70, good for a tie for 11th, while Ian Coffman led USD with a 71 (tied for 13th).

- Cal State San Marcos moved up one place to sixth with a 972 total after three rounds of the NAIA Women's Golf National Championships in Rapid City, S.D. Roxanne Mejia shot a team-best 74 in the third round and is tied for 15th, while Linnel DeVilla is tied for 19th.

- The PLNU women's tennis team was knocked out of the NAIA quarterfinals with a 5-1 loss to Concordia (Calif.) in Mobile, Ala. Kim Haynes got the only victory for PLNU at No. 3 singles.

- Pitcher Melissa Gomez drove in three runs as PLNU won its opening game of the NAIA Softball National Championships 5-0 over Holy Names in Decatur, Ala.

Spurred by rejection

USD's Coffman worked to prove that he belongs

By Tod Leonard
STAFF WRITER

Letters of rejection are a way of life for college coaches. They send them with compassion, no doubt, because there are teenagers with big dreams on the receiving end. Yet in the time it takes to lick a stamp, the letters become just another piece of bull. Recruiting is a game of numbers, and far more numbers than make it.

That's why USD men's golf coach Tim Mickelson had to laugh a month ago when Ian Coffman pulled out from his golf bag a dog-eared piece of paper as they stood on the putting green at San Diego Country Club.

In the letter that Coffman saved for six years, Mickelson matter-of-factly told the San Diego native from St. Augustine High that he wasn't good enough to play for the Toreros. It was an assessment that deeply stung a kid whose passion for golf seemed to run deeper than his skill for it.

"Oh man, do I remember how it felt when I got that bad boy," Coffman recalls.

The letter has significantly different meaning now. Coffman shared it with Mickelson not to boast or embarrass, but to enjoy its symbol of pride and perseverance, for both men.

In a remarkable twist, Coffman is one of five starters on the Toreros team that is heading into this week's 54-hole NCAA Daily City Regional, which begins Thursday at Lake Merced Golf Club.

Coffman's road was as circuitous as a trip to Los Angeles via Yuma. Coffman played three seasons as a backup goalie for the USD soccer team, underwent back surgery, got his accounting degree, and walked onto the golf team last spring as a grad student with absolutely no promise he'd ever play in a tournament.

In his final year of eligibility, he has become one of Mickelson's most consistent performers, capping his rise with a tie for eighth in the recent West Coast Conference Championship.

"Every single thing he's done this spring, he's earned," Mickelson said. "It's exactly what you ask for as a coach, to see someone earn their way on to the team and take advantage of it."

As for that letter? Mickelson wouldn't mind a muligan.

"Obviously, I was wrong," the coach said. "I would have loved to have had him for the last four years. I'm happy to have had him the last year and a half."



Ian Coffman has become one of USD's most consistent performers. Bruce K. Huff / Union-Tribune

"I have loved golf. There's just something about it," Coffman said. "If I have to get up at 6 o'clock in the morning, I want to play golf, not do goalie training. I love the challenge of it. You have to work hard at it and you're never perfect. I'm itching for more every time."

Simply put, though, Coffman did not stack up to some of the other local junior golf standouts against whom he competed. He didn't win a tournament of consequence, and so he wasn't shocked when he failed to impress Mickelson. But he was still terribly disappointed not to be playing college golf somewhere.

The consolation came when Coffman was offered a spot on the USD soccer team by the head coach of 30 years, Seamus McFadden. Coffman was a backup, but it wasn't a bad gig in a program that regularly climbs high into the national rankings.

The goalkeeping became a problem when Coffman suffered a herniated disc in his back that eventually required surgery. When he healed, Coffman hit the driving range, and soccer became a nice memory.

Mickelson let Coffman try out last spring, but in a group qualifier he missed the cutoff number by one shot. Coffman begged for another chance, and Mickelson — and Coffman's prospective teammates — couldn't resist.

"He had an extremely good work ethic, and the guys wanted him on the team," Mickelson said.

Coffman would prove his value as a teammate. He finally earned a starting spot in March for a tournament in Fresno, but got sick right before the event and was told by his doctor he was contagious. After waiting years for his shot, he called Mickelson to withdraw from the trip.

"It was the most selfless thing anybody's ever done on my team in six years," Mickelson said.

Coffman made the roster for the Barona Collegiate Cup a week later, and he has been in the starting lineup ever since. He shot 71-69-75 in the WCC tourney in Vallejo to finish as the No. 2 Torero.

"There are guys who step up and play when it matters, and that's Ian," Mickelson said. "If we're coming down to the last four holes in regionals, and I need him to play at 1-under or even, I know he can do it."

What changed for the kid who wasn't good enough?

"Honestly, my head," Coffman said. "Golf is such a mental game, it's a joke."

Everything, he's learned, can become a cause for motivation, including a piece of painful rejection.

"I know it's a little cheesy," Coffman said, "but it reminds me of where I was at. Any ath-

NCAA MEN'S GOLF

Daly City Regional
When: Thursday-Saturday, 54 holes

Where: Lake Merced Golf Club
At stakes: In one of six regionals, 13 teams, including San Diego State and USD, compete to earn five spots in the NCAA Championship, to be held May 26-30 at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio. There are 81 schools combined in the regionals.

SDSU outlook: The Aztecs, ranked 22nd, are seeded fourth after earning their 11th straight regional bid. Last year, SDSU played in the finals for the fourth time and placed 14th. The Aztecs have five second-place tournament finishes this season; sophomore John Carisson leads in season scoring average (72.50).

USD outlook: The 12th-seeded Toreros, seeking their first berth in the finals, are making their third appearance in the regionals in the past four years. They had six top-5 showings, including one title, this season and have been led by WCC Freshman of the Year Alex Ching (team-best stroke average of 71.73); senior Blake Trimble (Torrey Pines) was third in the WCC Championships.

— TOD LEONARD

lete out there, if somebody tells you you're not good enough, you're going to try to work hard to prove them wrong."

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Coffman, 23, is a former *Union-Tribune* Scholar Athlete of the Year who played varsity golf and soccer for all four years at St. Augustine. A goalie from early in his youth days with the La Jolla Nomads, he manned the nets as the Saints won two CIF titles.

Growing up in Pt. Loma, he took up golf at 13, and from that time on it captured his devotion much more than soccer ever could.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 12, 2009

INSIDE SPORTS



Rejection motivated golfer to succeed

USD golf coach Tim Mickelson once told Ian Coffman (above) he wasn't good enough to play for the Toreros. "Obviously, I was wrong,"

Mickelson says. **D4**

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 5, 2009

College success

• The San Diego State and USD men's golf teams yesterday were selected to play in the NCAA Tournament regional at Lake Merced Golf Club May 14-16. The Aztecs are seeded fourth and the Toreros 12th in the 13-team event that is part of six regionals that will send teams to the national championship tournament.

• USD's Alex Ching, who had a team-best scoring average of 71.73 this season, was selected by West Coast Conference coaches as the Freshman of the Year. Ching tied for 15th in the recent WCC Championship. Toreros senior Blake Trimble tied for third in the tournament and was named to the conference first team. Senior Ian Coffman was honorable mention.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 22, 2009



LOCAL COLLEGES

USD junior outfielder **James Meador** has been named the West Coast Conference's Player of the Year. Meador, who led the league in batting (.438), hits (39) and total bases (60) during conference play, is the fourth Toreros player to win the WCC's top award. Meador was joined on the All-WCC First Team by USD pitcher **AJ Griffin**, shortstop **Sean Nicol** and utility player **Zach Walters**. Catcher **Nick McCoy** got honorable mention honors, and **Bryan Haar** was named to the All-WCC Freshman Team.

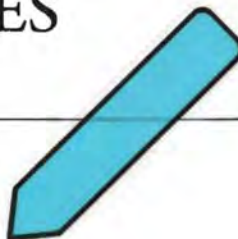
• PLNU's **Sam Cyr** fired a tournament-best 4-under 67 to move in front of the 151-player field with a two-under 211 total in the third round of the 58th annual NAIA Men's Golf National Championships in Silvis, Ill. PLNU is in 14th place after shooting a 296 third-round score for a three-day

total of 920. Oklahoma Christian is leading with a score of 882.

• USD sophomore **Dean Jackson** upset No. 7 seed **Michael Venus** of LSU 7-6 (9-7), 6-3 in the second round of the NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championships in College Station, Texas. Jackson, who has assured himself ITA All-America honors, will face No. 9-16 seed **Conor Pollock** of Texas A&M in today's round of 16.

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 21, 2009



Meador is WCC's best

University of San Diego
outfielder James Meador was named the West Coast Conference player of the year, even though the Toreros (29-25, 11-10 WCC) finished fifth in the conference standings and have only a slim chance to gain an at-large berth to play in the NCAA tournament for the fourth straight year.

Meador batted .438 with 39 hits and 60 total bases in WCC games to lead the conference in all three categories.

Joining Meador on the All-WCC first team were junior right-handed pitcher A.J. Griffin (Grossmont High), senior shortstop Sean Nicol and sophomore infielder/outfielder Zach Walters.

— Tom Shanahan

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 13, 2009

SPORTS

TOROS TOPPLE NO. 1

USD baseball team scores seven runs in the ninth to upset top-ranked UC Irvine 9-2 in the final game of the regular season / **D3**

Daily Pilot

Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, California

Print Page

Published Wednesday, May 13, 2009 12:08 AM PDT

Sports

'Eaters let USD end well

Top-ranked UCI ties it in the eighth, but Toreros' big ninth in their season finale, ends hosts' streak.

By Barry Faulkner

IRVINE — The UC Irvine baseball brain trust will meet with administrators today to mull whether the top-ranked Anteaters will bid to play host to an NCAA Regional in a little more than two weeks.

Some 90 miles to the south, the players and coaches from the University of San Diego will mull banquet speeches.

The latter got a lot more entertaining after the visiting Toreros scored seven runs in the ninth to break a 2-2 tie and claim a 9-2 nonconference triumph Tuesday at Anteater Ballpark.

The win, the fourth in USD's last four games against No. 1-ranked teams, gave the West Coast Conference squad (29-25) a two-game sweep against UCI (37-12) this season. USD swept then-top-ranked Texas to open the 2006 season.

"Thank God we're done with them," said UCI Coach Mike Gillespie, who had a spirited speech of his own for his players after UCI's seven-game winning streak came to an end. UCI, which has clinched at least a share of the program's first Big West Conference championship and can clinch outright with a win in any of its six remaining conference games, had won 14 of its last 15 and 17 of its previous 20.

"I think we all should agree that it's pretty embarrassing that you could have that variety of mistakes in the 49th game," said Gillespie, who was more than mildly disappointed with breakdowns he cited in the bunting game, base running, defense and execution of pitch.

"We always want to win, but the goal to that end is to play the game right and play it well," Gillespie said. "I think you're going to screw up a few times and that can happen. But I don't think this was acceptable."

That being said, UCI scored two in the eighth to erase a 2-0 deficit.

Ronnie Shaeffer led off with a single, then a walk and two hit batsmen, the latter absorbed by Cory Olson with the bases loaded and one out, put UCI on the board after USD starter AJ Griffin had blanked the hosts on five hits before exiting after the seventh.

Senior shortstop Ben Orloff plated the tying run with a safety squeeze bunt single on a 2-2 pitch.

But San Diego junior reliever Matt Hauser, a product of Corona del Mar High and Orange Coast College, got the visitors out of the inning and picked up his fifth win of the season, his second against UCI.

Griffin, who threw a complete game Friday, struck out seven and walked five. He threw 117 pitches to help USD end its season on a high note.

"I admire his toughness and he was good tonight," Gillespie said of Griffin, who entered with an 8-3 record and a 3.45 earned-run average.

After junior All-American closer Eric Pettis got the first out of the ninth, a single and walk set the table for Bryan Haar, who launched a 2-2 pitch over the fence in left for a three-run homer, his fifth of the season.

A three-run double by pinch-hitter Mike Lugo helped add to the lead, as UCI needed three pitchers to get out of the inning.

Senior Eric Deragisch was two for five, while Olson was one for one and reached all four plate appearances (two walks and the aforementioned pitch off his back).

UCI starter Brock Bardeen allowed one run in four innings, but UCI's offense struggled against Griffin.

UCI left 13 men on base, including five in scoring position in the first four innings.

"We'll just try to get over our embarrassment and our inability to do some things and try to get back out there [today]," Gillespie said.

UCI freshman third baseman DJ Crumlich returned after being out 16 days due to an appendectomy.

UCI plays host to a three-game Big West series beginning Friday at 6 p.m.

[CLOSE WINDOW]



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May 12, 2009

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Around the Bases

Poythress scores game-winner in ninth for Georgia*USD scores seven in ninth at UCI, Mahtook homers for LSU vs. Centenary*

In Atlanta, Rich Poythress (left) doubled and scored in the top of the ninth to snap a 5-5 tie and lead No. 19 Georgia past No. 8 Georgia Tech 7-5 Tuesday in front of 24,665 fans at Turner Field, the sixth-largest regular-season crowd in college baseball history and the second-largest crowd in the seven-year Spring Baseball Classic for Kids. Bryce Massanari

drew an intentional walk after the one-out double by Poythress in the ninth for the Bulldogs (35-17). Lyle Allen hit a bases hit to plate Poythress and a throwing error on the play brought in Peter Verdin with an insurance run. Allen finished with three hits and two RBI, while Massanari and Matt Cerione both drove in two runs. Mahtook had a two-run single to cap a three-run seventh as the Yellow Jackets (17-13-1) tied it at 5.

San Diego 9, No. 1 UC Irvine 2

In Irvine, Calif., Bryan Haar's three-run homer highlighted a seven-run ninth as USD topped UCI at Anteater Ballpark. Haar's blast snapped a 2-2 tie, and Michael Lugo added a three-run pinch-hit double later in the frame for the Toreros (29-25). The Anteaters (37-12) scored twice in the eighth to tie it at 2. Chris Engell had four hits and Sean Nicol added three hits for USD. Eric Deragisch had two hits for UCI.

No. 2 LSU 12, Centenary 4

In Baton Rouge, La., Mikie Mahtook had a three-run homer and knocked in four as LSU topped Centenary at Alex Box Stadium. Leon Landry went 3 for 3 with two runs for the Tigers (39-14). Mahtook's blast in the second gave LSU a 5-0 lead. Thomas Deering homered in a three-run fifth for the Gents (31-15) before the Tigers put the game away with a seven-run seventh.

No. 4 North Carolina 4, Charlotte 1

In Charlotte, N.C., Dustin Ackley went 2 for 3 with two RBI as UNC edged Charlotte at Hayes Stadium. Brian Moran (6-1) retired the nine batters he faced over three innings with six strikeouts. Greg Holt pitched the final 2.2 innings with one hit and two strikeouts for his first save. Ackley had a two-run single in the fifth to break a scoreless tie. Kyle Seager drew a bases-loaded walk in the seventh to make it 3-0. Alan Parks had an RBI single in the bottom of the frame for the 49ers (30-19). Park and Rob Lyerly both had two hits for Charlotte. Levi Michael walked and scored an insurance run in the ninth for the Tar Heels (39-13).

No. 6 Rice 7, Louisiana-Lafayette 2

In Houston, Brock Holt had two hits and six RBI to lead Rice past ULL at Reckling Park. Holt had an RBI groundout in the third and his three-run homer in the fifth gave the Owls (34-13) a 4-1 lead. Holt added a two-run single in a three-run sixth. Matt Hicks had two hits and one RBI for the Ragin' Cajuns (22-28-1).



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SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 11, 2009



USD falls in WCC finale

USD dropped its final West Coast Conference baseball game of the season 9-1 to the University of San Francisco at Cunningham Stadium.

The Toreros fall to 28-25 overall and 11-10 in the WCC. Sean Nicol led USD, going 3-for-4 with two doubles.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 10, 2009

More baseball



USF had 18 hits, including two home runs by outfielder Drew Johnson, and crushed host USB 14-5 in a WCC game. USF scored 10 runs in the top of the sixth against the Toreros (28-24, 11-9) to put things away. The Toreros' bats weren't silent as they had 11 hits, including two apiece from James Meador, Zach Walters, Bryan Haar and Austin Green. The Dons are 25-26, 9-8 ... After losing a three-run ninth-inning lead, UCSD rallied for an 8-7 win over Sonoma State on Garrett Imeson's one-out walk-off RBI single to center as the Tritons (36-12) captured the 2009 California Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament Championship at Palm Springs Stadium. "It was a gutsy win for us as we kept punching back," said head coach Dan O'Brien. Closer Daniel Simmons (1-0) pitched the final one-third of an inning against SSU (32-14) to get the victory. The victory gives UCSD the CCAA's automatic berth into the Division II NCAA Tournament.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 9, 2009

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Junior All-American ~~Jo~~ Griffin tossed a one-run, ~~five-hit~~ complete game to pace USD to a 10-1 victory over the University of San Francisco in a West Coast Conference game at Cunningham Stadium. With the win, the Toreros snap a six-game losing streak and improve to 28-23 overall, 11-8 in the WCC . . . UCSD pounded out 20 hits in a 16-1 win over Sonoma State to advance to the California Collegiate Athletic Association title game at noon today in Palm Springs, where the Tritons (35-12) will face Sonoma State again.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 8, 2009

COLLEGE BASEBALL TODAY

AIR FORCE at SDSU

When: 6 p.m.

Where: Tony Gwynn Stadium.

Live coverage: goaztecs.com

Outlook: The final regular-season start of Stephen Strasburg's career at Tony Gwynn Stadium sold out early this week. Strasburg is 10-0 with a 1.38 ERA and 147 strikeouts in 78½ innings this season. The Aztecs are 31-18 overall and 10-8 in conference (fourth place). Air Force is 14-31 overall and 3-12. Catcher Erik Castro (.378, 7 HR, 39 RBI) and outfielder Cory Vaughn (.337,

10 HR, 44 RBI) pace the SDSU offense.

SAN FRANCISCO at USD

When: 3 p.m.

Where: Cunningham Stadium.

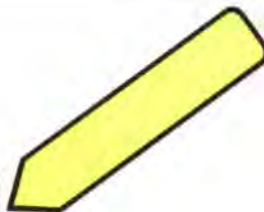
Live coverage: usdtoreros.com

Outlook: The Toreros (27-23, 10-8) are third in the West Coast Conference, with the Dons (24-25, 8-7) one spot back. USD has lost six straight, including a three-game sweep last weekend at the hands of Loyola Marymount. James Meador (.386, 6 HR, 44 RBI) leads the Toreros' attack.

May 6, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

ASU drops USD in extra innings



UNION-TRIBUNE

Arizona State defeated the University of San Diego baseball team 8-7 in 11 innings last night in a nonconference game at Packard Stadium.

With the game tied at 7-7 in the bottom of the 11th, ASU pushed across the winning run on a Zack MacPhee RBI single.

Darrin Campbell (3-5) was saddled with the loss for the Toreros (27-22).

More baseball

NAIA No. 3-ranked Point Loma Nazarene blanked The Master's 4-0 in the GSAC Tournament yesterday. Andrew Bovich (11-0) gave up just two hits over eight strong innings to notch the win, while center fielder Kurt Steinhauer (3-for-4 with two home runs and three RBI) provided the offense. First baseman Steven Winnick added a solo shot for PLNU, which faces Fresno Pacific today at noon.

• Cal State San Marcos advanced to the finals of the NAIA West Regional Tournament in Vancouver, B.C., defeating Oregon Tech 7-6. The winner of the tournament gets an automatic bid to the National Championship tournament.



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May 6, 2009

Rankings are from CBI Composite Poll
[click here for complete list of scores](#)

Around the Bases

Maxfield drives in five as FGCU wins at No. 11 Florida

ASU completes sweep of USD, Fullerton wins second straight against Arizona

In Gainesville, Fla., Zach Maxfield had three hits, including a home run and five RBI as Florida Gulf Coast thumped No. 11 Florida 17-5 Wednesday at McKethan Stadium. Tim Roberson belted a grand slam in the third inning, scoring for the Eagles (31-16). Maxfield's two-run double capped a five-run fifth as FGCU took a 9-0 lead. The Gators (34-15) scored their first run in the fifth. Maxfield added a three-run homer in the seventh. Jonathan Ingott drove in two for UF.

No. 5 Arizona State 7, San Diego 6

In Tempe, Ariz., Matt Newman had two hits and two RBI to lead ASU to a two-game sweep of USD in front of 2,237 fans at Winkles Field-Packard Stadium at Brock Ballpark. Newman also started on the mound and allowed three earned runs in five innings with four strikeouts in a no-decision. Newman had an RBI groundout in a two-run first for the Sun Devils (35-11). Chris Engell went deep in the second for the Toreros (27-23). Drew Maggi scored from third on a wild pitch in the sixth to snap a 6-6 tie and give ASU the lead for good. Maggi finished with two hits and three runs. Engell went 4 for 5 with two runs for USD. James Meador and Zach Walters both had three hits for the Toreros.

No. 6 Cal State Fullerton 8, Arizona 4

In Fullerton, Calif., Joe Scott drove in three as Cal State Fullerton swept a two-game series from Arizona. Nick Ramirez added two RBI doubles for the Titans (34-12), who have won 11 of their past 12 contests. Gary Brown had four hits for Fullerton. Bobby Coyle had an RBI triple and scored in the second for the Wildcats (22-23). Ramirez had a run-scoring double to key a three-run second for the Titans. Scott added a two-run single in the third as Fullerton took a 5-2 lead. Steve Selsky had two hits and two runs for UA.

No. 7 Texas 7, Texas Southern 3

In Austin, Texas, Brandon Belt had two hits and two RBI as Texas topped Texas Southern at UFCU Disch-Falk Field. Stayton Thomas (3-0) allowed three runs on seven hits with one walk and two strikeouts. Kendal Carrillo pitched three scoreless innings with two strikeouts, while Austin Dicharry tossed a perfect ninth with one punchout. Belt had an RBI single to spark a three-run third for the Longhorns (34-11-1). Belt's RBI double capped a three-run fourth as Texas took a 6-0 lead. Jeff Nelms singled, Michael Norris doubled and both scored in a three-run sixth for the Tigers (20-26). Ray Hernandez had two hits, one run and one RBI for TSU.

No. 10 Florida State 15, FIU 5

In Tallahassee, Fla., Tommy Oravetz had three hits for the second straight day as FSU defeated FIU at Mike Martin Field inside Dick Howser Stadium. Oravetz had a double, a homer, two runs and two RBI. The Seminoles (35-12) scored 11 in the first three innings to extend their win streak to 14. Tyler Holt had two hits and two RBI for FSU. Stephen Cardullo had one hit, three walks and three runs for the Seminoles. Tyler Townsend had three hits and two runs for the Golden Panthers (30-19). Mike Martinez added two hits and three RBI for FIU.



is in that territory.

- UCLA. I wouldn't put the Bruins into an updated field of 64, but they're at least back into the discussion. At 22-22, UCLA is finally back to .500 for the first time since Feb. 24 (when it was 2-2). The Bruins are also in second place in the Pac-10 at 13-8, three games behind first-place Arizona State. With two weeks to play, that means the Bruins still have a chance to make a run at the Pac-10's automatic bid, and they control their own destiny since they finish the season at ASU. I still think UCLA will have its work cut out for it over the final two weekends against Cal State Fullerton and the Sun Devils, but we must at least resurrect its at-large chances (which we buried after the Bruins dropped their second straight conference series on April 12).

Stock Down

- Southern California. The Trojans were swept at Washington, their second straight Pac-10 series loss, dropping them to 22-19 overall and 10-11 in conference play. USC's path to regionals looked favorable, but the Trojans have failed to take advantage. They're out.

- Washington State. Right now, the Cougars still have the inside track at a regional bid, with looming home series against Oregon and Washington. But losing a home series to Stanford this weekend pushed them from the good side of the bubble to a far more precarious position.

- San Diego. The Toreros have done a great job holding this season together with duct tape and baling wire in the face of a plethora of key injuries, but their regional chances took a huge blow this weekend, as USD was swept at Loyola Marymount. The Lions are now tied with Gonzaga for first in the West Coast Conference, leaving the Toreros two games back with one conference weekend to play. If San Diego fails to make the best-of-three WCC championship series, its at-large hopes are extremely slim. LMU, meanwhile, has at least put itself in position to play for the league's automatic bid, but it probably isn't strong enough in the RPI (72nd) to garner an at-large bid. Gonzaga (50th in the RPI) is the lone WCC team in real strong position right now.

- Boston College. I thought the Eagles needed to win one of their final two series, both at home against Miami and North Carolina, to get an at-large bid. I figured Miami was their best shot, and they lost two of three to the Hurricanes this weekend. I don't expect BC to beat the Tar Heels that final weekend. BC has now lost three straight ACC series; if that slump reaches four against UNC, the Eagles are done.

- Baylor. The Bears are in free fall, having been swept in back-to-back series by Oklahoma and Texas. They're off next weekend for exams before finishing with three games at Nebraska. That's a sweepable series, and Baylor probably needs to sweep it to preserve its at-large hopes. Right now, the Bears are 10-13 in the league and just 26-20 overall. They do have a strong enough RPI (20th) to get a bid with a solid finish, but their hosting chances are kaput, and they would fall from a solid No. 2 seed to a shaky No. 3 if we were to update last week's projection today.

Strike Three: Golden Spikes Spotlight on Alex Wimmers

Ohio State pitching coach Eric Parker said last week that Buckeyes sophomore righthander Alex Wimmers can be dominant when he commands all three of his pitches.

Wimmers made Parker look like a wise man Friday. Effectively mixing his 88-91 mph fastball, quality curveball and changeup, Wimmers fired the first nine-inning no-hitter in Ohio State history in a 6-0 win against rival Michigan.



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May 5, 2009

Rankings are from CBI Composite Poll

[click here for complete list of scores](#)**Around the Bases****Ackley, Fleury both drove in three for UNC against Elon**
Texas State knocks off Rice, Arizona State nips San Diego in 11

In Chapel Hill, N.C., Dustin Ackley and Mark Fleury both drove in three as No. 2 North Carolina outscored Elon 15-6 Tuesday at Boshamer Stadium. The Tar Heels (36-11) scored five in the first and six in the fourth to take control. Ackley had three hits, two walks and two runs, while Fleury added two hits and two runs. Levi Michael had a two-run homer in the five-run first for UNC. Mike Melillo went 3 for 4 with a homer for the Phoenix (33-14). Cory Harrilchak had three hits, including two doubles, for Elon.

Texas State 4, No. 4 Rice 1

In Houston, Garret Carruth and Tyler Brundidge combined to hold Rice to one run as Texas State won at Reckling Park. Carruth (4-2) allowed one run in six innings with one strikeout. Brundidge tossed three perfect innings with three strikeouts to earn his third save. Keith Prestridge had an RBI double and scored in a two-run first for the Bobcats (34-12). Ryan Lewis had a run-scoring single in the fourth for the Owls (31-12). Prestridge singled and scored in a two-run fifth as TSU took a 4-1 lead. Prestridge and Spencer Dennis both had three hits for the Bobcats.

No. 5 Arizona State 8, San Diego 7 (11)

In Tempe, Ariz., Matt Newman knocked in the game-winner in the bottom of the 11th and pitched the final two innings to earn the victory as ASU edged USD in front of 2,923 fans at Winkles Field-Packard Stadium at Brock Ballpark. Newman (2-1) allowed one hit and no runs with one strikeout. Newman had two hits and three RBI at the plate. The Sun Devils (34-11) trailed 7-3 before scoring one in the seventh, two in the eighth and one in the ninth to force extra innings. Zack MacPhee homered in the eighth and added an RBI single in the ninth for ASU. Carlos Ramirez had three hits and a run for the Sun Devils. Sean Nicol and Zach Walters both had three hits and two runs for the Toreros (27-22). Nick McCoy homered and drove in three for USD.

No. 6 Cal State Fullerton 5, Arizona 2

In Fullerton, Calif., Josh Fellhauer homered and doubled to help Cal State Fullerton beat Arizona at Goodwin Field. Fellhauer doubled and scored to break a 2-2 tie in the third, and belted a two-run homer in the fifth for the Titans (33-12). Kevin Rath (3-1) fanned five in five innings to earn the victory. Nick Ramirez pitched a perfect ninth with two strikeouts for his third save. Dillon Baird had two hits, including a double, and scored for the Wildcats (22-22). Brad Glenn added two hits and one RBI for UA.

No. 10 Florida State 5, Jacksonville 2

In Tallahassee, Fla., Tommy Oravetz had three hits, including two homers, as FSU defeated JU at Mike Martin Field inside Dick Howser Stadium to stretch its win streak to 13. Mike McGee and Jason Stidham both had two hits for the Seminoles (34-12). Thomas Myers, Kevin Lehane and Chris Connelly each had two hits for the Dolphins (30-16).

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SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 13, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

Toreros surprise top-ranked UC Irvine

UNION-TRIBUNE

Grossmont High alum
Bryan Haar hit a three-
homer as part of USD's sev-
en-run ninth inning as the
Toreros stunned No. 1-
ranked UC Ir-
vine 9-2 last
night at Ante-
ater Ball-
park.

The score
was tied 2-2 in-
to the ninth when USD
(29-25) got to work.

Chris Engell singled up
the middle, then went to sec-
ond when James Meador
walked. A wild pitch preced-
ed Haar's homer over the
left-field fence.

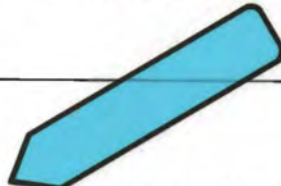
USD then scored four
more runs, with Michael Lu-
go's pinch-hit, three-run
double the big blow against
the Anteaters (37-12).

Engell was 4-for-5 with a
double and Sean Nicol was
3-for-5 with two RBI as USD
out-hit UC Irvine 14-7. On
just three days' rest, USD
starter A.J. Griffin turned in
a dominating performance,
tossing seven complete
shutout innings, allowing
five hits and striking out sev-
en batters.

Matt Hauser (5-2) got the
win, allowing no runs on one
hit over 1⅔ innings.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 1, 2009



USD at LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

When: 3 p.m.

Where: Page Stadium, Loyola Marymount

Live coverage: usdtoreros.com

Outlook: The Toreros (27-18, 10-5 in West Coast Conference) visit LMU (26-21, 9-6) for a three-game series that continues tomorrow and Sunday (1 p.m. each day). USD, which is tied for first with Gonzaga, leads the WCC in hitting (.319) and is third in pitching (4.81 ERA).

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 3, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

MWC title just eludes SDSU golfers

UNION-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

The No. 22-ranked San Diego State men's golf team carded a final round-best 281 (3-under par) and was the only team to break par on the final day, but the Aztecs dropped a team playoff to No. 16 TCU to finish second at the MWC Championships at the par-71, 7,136-yard OMNI Tucson (Ariz.) National Golf Club.

The Aztecs started the day seven strokes behind the Horned Frogs, but had all five players shoot 72 or better to make a dramatic run. SDSU, which was looking for its first MWC men's golf championship, has finished second in the event four times in the 10-year history of the conference.

SDSU had four top-seven finishes: Ryan Martin tied for third with a 4-under 209; Johan Carlsson, a sophomore who was named to the all-MWC team, shot a 2-under 211, good for sixth place; and both Alex Kang and J.J. Spaun tied for seventh with a 1-under 212.

Baseball

USD pitcher A.J. Griffin threw a complete game, but the Toreros fell to host Loyola

Marymount 7-3 in a WCC game. Griffin (7-3) allowed 13 hits to the Lions (28-21, 11-6), who led 2-0 after one inning and never looked back. James Meador had three hits and Chris Engell added two for the Toreros (27-20, 10-7) ... SDSU split a doubleheader with host Santa Clara, winning the opener 7-5 before dropping the second 7-2. Starter Ryan O'Sullivan (3-2) got the win in the first game as the Aztecs (30-18) backed him up with 10 hits, including two apiece by Brandon Meredith and Guy Willeford. In the nightcap, the Broncos (16-27) beat up five Aztecs pitchers, with Kyle Van Dusen homering and Alex Rivers (4-4) going the distance for Santa Clara ... UCSD won the California Collegiate Athletic Association regular-season title by sweeping visiting Cal Poly

Pomona 7-3 and 11-9. In the first game, Josh Tanner had a two-RBI double and Kirby St. John (2-2) earned the win. In the second game, Matt Cantele hit his school-record 54th career home run for the Tritons (33-12, 27-9). The Broncos are 26-23, 16-20.

Rowing

The USD women's team finished second at Friday's 2009 WCC Championships at Lake Natoma. Gonzaga totaled 29 points to edge the Toreros, who had 25. USD won the Varsity Four race, and were second in the Second Varsity Eights and the Varsity Eight races. USD's Kim Cupini was named the 2009 WCC Coach of the Year, while senior Elizabeth Spangenberg and freshman Hannah Patrick were both named to the All-WCC Rowing team.

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

May 19, 2009

TRACK AND FIELD



■ Twelve women and three men will represent **UC San Diego** at the NCAA Division II championships beginning Thursday in San Angelo, Texas. Junior **Christine Merrill** will compete in three events for the Tritons. She is the top seed in the 400 hurdles with a qualifying time of 58.86 and will also compete as part of the 400 and 1,600 relay teams. Senior **Lalah Blue** will also represent UCSD in three events — 100 and 400 meter hurdles, and 1,600 relay. Sophomore **Kelly Fogarty** qualified in both the 100 and 200 and will also run a leg on the 4x100 relay team. In distance events, sophomore **Bre Schofield** (Carlsbad) is seeded seventh in the 1,500 meters after setting the school record with a time of 4:29.67 in the event. Senior **Linda Rainwater** will look to repeat as national champion in the heptathlon, while also competing in the high jump. UCSD record holder **Danielle Thu** claimed the top seed in the hammer throw.

■ USD freshman **Nichole Buck** won the 800 at the Occidental College Invitational in a school-record time of 2:21.71.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

■ Palomar College's **Arina Polovnikova** and **Shoko Hachiya** won the community college state doubles title in straight sets. Polovnikova lost to Ventura's **Ashley Litchfield** 6-0, 6-0 in the singles finals at the Southern California championships.

■ Point Loma Nazarene's run at the NAIA championships came to an end after a 5-1 quarterfinal loss to Concordia. NAIA No. 12-ranked Point Loma Nazarene finished the year with a 14-11 record. The Sea Lions, led by **Kristin Strimple** (Santa Fe Christian), won twice at the NAIA championships, beating Ohio Dominican 8-1 and upsetting Savannah College of Art and Design 5-3.

MEN'S TENNIS

■ Point Loma Nazarene went 1-1 at the NAIA national champi-

onships in Mobile, Ala., beating the University of Mobile before losing to Azusa Pacific.

■ USD sophomore **Dean Jackson** is ranked No. 52 in the country and will take a seven-match win streak into the NCAA championships beginning Wednesday at College Station, Texas. Jackson brings a 19-7 singles record — including 17-4 in the spring — into the tournament.

SWIMMING

■ Palomar College freshman **Rachel Lutz** won the women's 100 individual medley finals in 58.51 seconds at the community college state championships. Teammate **Ryan Krause** won the men's 100 butterfly (49.19) at the same meet.

HONOR CORPS

■ Palomar College coaches **Buck Taylor** and **Mark Eldridge** were voted Pacific Coast Conference men's and women's sports coaches of the year, respectively, for the current school year. Balloting was conducted among PCC athletic directors. Taylor's baseball team won the conference championship, finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in Southern California and West Coast polls. Eldridge coached the women's golf team to the Foothill Conference championship and No. 3 ranking in the state finals. He also directed the Comets' softball team to a PCC title.

— John Maffei

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

May 24, 2009

LOCAL COLLEGES

Cougars star Williams 2nd at NAIA meet

UNION-TRIBUNE

Cal State San Marcos runner Dallan Williams finished second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase yesterday with a time of 10 minutes, 24.70 seconds at the NAIA Track & Field National Championships at Ralph Korte Stadium in Edwardsville, Ill.

Williams is the reigning national champion in the event, and earned All-America status for her finish this year.

CSUSM's Tony Guadagnini earned All-America status as well, finishing fifth in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 3:49.84 while freshman Caitlin Villarreal is an All-American after a sixth-place finish in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:17.77.

They join CSUSM All-American Morgan Sjogren, who was fourth in Thursday's 10,000-meter run at 36:16.54.

Baseball

Top-ranked UC San Diego (39-13) opens play today at the eight-team NCAA Division II College World Series in Cary, N.C. The Tritons take on Dowling (34-16), a New York college that won the East Regional, at 10 a.m. Both teams are making their first trips to the series at the D-II level ... Gonzaga beat Loyola Marymount 14-3 in a WCC championship series game.

Men's tennis

USD's Dean Jackson, an ITA All-America selection, lost 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Friday to Texas A&M's Conor Pollock in the round of 16 at the NCAA Division I Men's Tennis Championships.

TODAY'S LOCAL NEWS

May 31, 2009



Rancho Buena Vista High alum Andrea Csasz had to learn a new role as a defensive player at the University of San Diego, but she gets to take her swings when she competes on the beach during the summer months. Brock Scott

RBV grad Csasz finds volleyball balance between gym and beach

By Zach Jones
TODAY'S LOCAL NEWS

SAN DIEGO — For Andrea Csasz, the beach is more than the edge of the ocean. It's her playground. Her gym. Her group therapy. Her spa.

A junior on the University

of San Diego volleyball team, Csasz says the transition to a college program wasn't easy.

After an All-CIF career as an outside hitter at Rancho Buena Vista High, she discovered what so many top high school hitters do: 5-foot-10 isn't as tall

as it used to be.

Her legs still had their old spring, but her frame didn't fit the 6-foot-plus Division I hitter prototype. So she changed positions, became a defensive specialist, and helped lead the Toreros to a West Coast Conference championship as a freshman.

Life was good. Csasz was named to the league's all-freshman team. USD was the No. 14 team in the land.

But Csasz wanted more. It had started in second grade, taking lessons from Tri-City Christian coach and former Olympic beach volleyball player Gail Malone, and more than 10 years later, even the photos in Csasz's bedroom were mocking her.

"It was hard to accept only playing defense," she said. "I have pictures in my room (from high school) and I look back at those, and I loved (hitting)."

When her first college season ended in December, Csasz knew what she had to do. It was the same thing she'd been doing every summer since she

Beach

>From A12

picked up the sport: head to the beach.

"I never had a doubt in my mind that I would keep playing on the beach," she said. "Once spring and summer come around, the beach comes around."

If the Division I template for the "ideal" outside hitter relegated Csasz to the back row, the loose sand and two-on-two format of beach volleyball leveled the playing field once again.

On the beach, her height doesn't matter. On the beach, her skills on defense (and experience as a hitter) help her stifle opponents' attacks. On the beach, versatility — not specialization — is her greatest asset.

"It's a completely different sport," Csasz said. "You've got so many more elements in play."

During her first competitive summer on the sand, Csasz and teammate Heather Hughes (a former standout at Fallbrook High) earned a "AA" ranking in California Beach Volleyball Association play.

Competing in the CBVA, with a variety of partners, has been a spring and summer ritual ever since.

"When there's only one other person on the court, you have to work well together," said Csasz, who most recently finished fourth at the Collegiate Beach Volleyball Championships with teammate Colleen Carlson.

Csasz hasn't lost her love for the indoor game she grew up playing. Far from it.

With one more college season remaining, she will return to the court in the fall as part of an elite program with a chance to return to the NCAA championships.

But next week, she may be at Moonlight Beach in Encinitas, just a few minutes' drive from her Oceanside home. Or at Mission Beach in San Diego, playing what amounts to a pickup game with others like herself.

She wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

"You're bound to find somebody (to play with)," she said. "It's a little community, and everybody knows everybody."

That community — former high school standouts, college players, even touring professionals — is what gets Csasz up early in the morning on a summer weekday and heading to Moonlight Beach to catch the best competition.

"There's no writing on the (net) post or anything, but

people kind of know," she said. "The highest court is for the better players, and the lower courts are for the people who just want to have fun."

Csasz doesn't plan on making a run at a professional beach career, but then, her love for the sand was never about money.

"It re-energizes me for the indoor season," she said. "Summer is my time to play and just enjoy competing."

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Beach A13 >



Csasz was a top outside hitter for RBV. U-T file photo

Grier optimistic after USD's slide

By Hank Wesch
STAFF WRITER

A season that started with the greatest possibilities in USD men's basketball history had just ended with a record (16-16) that epitomized mediocrity when head coach Bill Grier reflected back, and ahead, after the season.

"This team has been through more this year than any team I've been around in a number of years," Grier said. "Hopefully these guys have learned some things from this year. I certainly know I have. I think part of the process is to learn and grow and accept the things that we expect of them on and off the floor."

"I think they will. I don't think any of them want to go through again the problems that we had this year."

The ending of the 2007-08 campaign, Grier's first season, included a victory in the West Coast Conference Tournament and the first NCAA Tournament win ever for a San Diego County men's Division I program. With everyone returning from that 22-14 team expectations were high.

But from the beginning, things went wrong.

Disciplinary suspensions Grier levied for breaches of team rules sidelined senior Gyno Pomare for the season opener, sophomore forward Clinton Houston for most of November/December and sophomore point guard Tru-maine Johnson for eight games to start the season and one more in February.

Johnson's USD career ended with two games left in the regular season with the mutual agreement between he and Grier that he would transfer to an as-yet undetermined school. Grier conceded in a recent interview that the prolonged distraction of the conflict between the head coach and a key player in the previous season's glory run had an adverse affect on the team.

"It lingered on too long," Grier said. "But it was a case of my trying to help someone out and give them a second chance. I remember how I was when I was 19-20 years old, and I'm always going to be someone that tries to help."

"Looking back, I don't know if I would have done anything differently. But I think I've learned not to let something like that drag on in the future."

In December, eight games into the season, star senior guard Brandon Johnson suffered a season-ending ruptured Achilles' tendon against San Diego State. Two months earlier, incoming freshman guard Devonier Braswell had been lost for the season with a similar injury in a preseason conditioning workout.

"I had seen one Achilles' injury in my previous 18 years of coaching," Grier said. "We had two in the space of about six weeks and obviously the loss of Brandon was a big hit for us to take."

Braswell is well along the road to recovery and Johnson is "ahead of where we thought he would be at this point,"

Grier said. The process by which Johnson will be granted a medical redshirt and afforded an additional year of eligibility for the coming season has been followed. Approval is expected to be a mere formality.

Only time will tell how effective Johnson and Braswell can be returning from injury. If they succeed, the 2009-10 Toreros will have the kind of quality and depth in the backcourt that was expected, but never realized last year.

Pomare, USD's career scoring and rebounding leader, and reserve guard Danny Brown will be lost to graduation. The 2009-10 roster will also be missing Rob Jones, a two-year starter at forward who is transferring to be closer to his San Francisco Bay Area home to support his father's fight with a kidney disorder.

USD signed three high school players in November: Chris Manresa, a 6-8, 245-pound forward from Tesoro High in Mission Viejo; Ken Rancier, a 6-5, 215-pound forward from El Cerrito High in El Cerrito, and Cameron Miles, a 6-1, 160-pound point guard from Skyline High in Dallas.

All three had productive senior seasons in high school and have potential to be impact players as freshmen, Grier said.

"We could wind up relying heavily on Chris Manresa," Grier said. "He's got good skill levels and a high understanding of the game for a big man."

"Ken Rancier was as good a rebounding wing as I saw all season and I also think he's got a good chance to be a lockdown defender."

Last month, the Toreros also signed Rafael Crescencio a 6-9, 220-pound forward-center from Brazil and Arizona Western College in Yuma, Arizona.

"His length, athleticism and skill will have an immediate impact on our program," Grier said. "He is very intelligent and will be a great ambassador for the university."

After the 2007-08 season, Grier was interviewed for an opening at Oregon State that was eventually filled by Craig Robinson, brother-in-law of President Barack Obama. Despite last season, Grier said he has no second thoughts over what might have been.

"I think Oregon State hired the right guy," Grier said. "Because he runs a different system (Princeton-influenced) than any other program in the Pac-10 and because the year they had shows he can be successful with it. The President's brother-in-law part was a bonus that helps make him a good hire."

"I made the decision (to stay at USD) that I thought was best for my family. And even though last season didn't go like anybody wanted, I look forward to next season because of the group we have coming back."

On a personal level, even more reason to look to the future came April 15 when Grier, his wife Nicole and daughter Giselle welcomed daughter Ashley June — 8 pounds, 12 ounces, and 19.5 inches tall — to the family.



USD coach Bill Grier hopes his team learned much from its struggles this past season. *Page Peattie/Union-Tribune*

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A Charger Player to Root for
Mon, May 18th, 2009

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San Diego Sports

Eric Bakhtiari is Preparing for Success

A Charger Player to Root for

By Dan McLellan

Posted on Mon, May 18th, 2009

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Dan McLellan

"Today is an important day for me. Every day is an important day for me," said

Chargers Linebacker Eric Bakhtiari after he finished an intense workout in preparation for Training Camp which is still over two months away. These preparations began for Bakhtiari as last season concluded.

Last year Bakhtiari attended the Chargers Training Camp as an undrafted free agent out of the University of San Diego and he nearly made the team. Impressive, considering USD is a non-scholarship football school and that one of his own college coaches claims Bakhtiari begged to get on USD's team as a scrawny freshman.



Eric Bakhtiari takes in the Chargers Practice Facilities
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With hard work Bakhtiari developed into something special for USD. In his senior year he led the nation with 20 sacks. Also, Bakhtiari was twice named the Pioneer Football League's Defender of the Year.

Even with those achievements Bakhtiari admits that his NFL opportunity came because his USD teammate Quarterback Josh Johnson was attracting NFL scouts. Chargers General Manager A.J. Smith was among those that were interested in Johnson and then became captivated by the play of Bakhtiari. Smith gave Bakhtiari a chance as free-agent with the Chargers.

Twice within only three weeks it appeared that Bakhtiari's dream of playing in the NFL may fall short. On August 30, 2008 he was released by the Chargers in the final round of cuts and was not offered a spot on the practice squad. Reflecting back, Bakhtiari said, "I didn't want to give up on the dream. I felt like I was so close."

Just over a week later on September 10 Shawn Merriman elected to have season-ending knee ligament surgery. To replace Merriman,

Today

Tomorrow



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Patchy Fog

69°F | 61°F

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Sports Ticker published the
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Julia commented on "**Chiang
 Kai Chek**" at **Sledgehammer
 Theatre**.

Antwan Applewhite was elevated from the practice squad making room for Bakhtiari to join the practice squad. Unfortunately, Bakhtiari's stay with the Chargers was short lived. Bakhtiari said, "They had to re-shuffle the roster again and I was the odd man out, two weeks later."

This was because on September 23 the Chargers signed Ian Scott to a two-year deal and placed Scott on the active roster. This in turn forced DeJuan Tribble from the active roster down to the practice squad, leaving no room for Bakhtiari.

Having been cut twice in a three week period would be a blow to most egos. Bakhtiari however kept his head up and turned to friends and family for support. He commented, "I've got two brothers who look up to me, my sister, and I've got my mom and dad. They are always telling me, 'You can do this. We are right here behind you.'"

With the support of his family Bakhtiari was determined to get another opportunity and he kept a positive attitude. He thought, "If I stay in shape and do the right things, good things will happen."

Two weeks later, on October 7, he had another shot. This time it was with the San Francisco 49ers who signed him to their practice squad. San Francisco was impressed with Bakhtiari when they faced the Chargers in their final pre-season game.

Bakhtiari was determined to make the most of his opportunity with San Francisco. He remembered, "I went up there and every day I acted like it was my last day, like they were going to cut me after. So, I wanted to give it everything I had in every practice. Guys would be yelling at me to slow down, but I didn't care anymore and I stopped trying to make friends. They ended up respecting me for it and the coaches really warmed up to me."

Bakhtiari's hard work paid off and he remained on San Francisco's practice squad for the rest of the year. Bakhtiari is appreciative of his time with San Francisco and how he was treated by the coaching staff. "I wasn't just a body there. They actually wanted to improve my skill set." Commenting on his opportunity to play regularly with NFL players, Bakhtiari noted, "My confidence went through the roof!"

At the conclusion of the season, A.J. Smith saw an opportunity to capitalize on Bakhtiari's growth as a player. He promptly signed Bakhtiari to the Chargers with a two-year developmental squad contract. With the added confidence boost of having already been through a Charger Training Camp, Bakhtiari said, "I know what is expected of me now. It gives me such an advantage over last year."

Bakhtiari is preparing to meet those expectations. "I have been cut twice. If I am going to get cut again, I want to know that I actually wasn't good enough, that I gave it everything I could. So, in order to sleep well at night with that sentiment, I need to do everything that I can."

Bakhtiari's challenge to make this Chargers team this year will be monumental. Merriman is returning and the Chargers drafted a new linebacker, Larry English, in the first round. However, a rule change in kickoff returns that prohibits more than two players forming wedges may aid Bakhtiari's chances. With this new rule, there will be a need for faster, fitter players on special teams rather than more bulky players who create and break up wedges.

When meeting Bakhtiari it appeared that his lean, yet large physique would be ideal for a special teams player under these new rules. Bakhtiari agreed, "The rule change will help me. I think that is where I will have to prove myself worthy to make this team. It's a third of the game and it just as important as offense or defense."

In the meantime, he continues to prepare himself for any opportunity to secure his spot on the Chargers 53-man squad. He said, "When I come out here I want to run as hard as I can, I want to lift as much as I possibly can, and to do things to the best of my ability." With this commitment he claims, "I've never been stronger."

Bakhtiari added, "You can give it a hundred and ten percent, but if you go into battle without a sword and a shield, you are not going to make it. Out here, when I am learning the playbook and I go home to review it, that is me getting my shield. Out here, when I am working as hard as I am, that is me getting my sword. So, when I do go into battle, I will succeed."

Bakhtiari remains appreciative of his second San Diego opportunity. "Look what I get to do. Look at who I am hanging out with. We are in San Diego. We are outside for a living. We are playing the greatest game in the history of the world and I couldn't be happier."

Sports Category : Chargers Players

Sports Subject : Football NFL

*About the author: Dan McLellan is a San Diego native and Charger season ticket holder since 1993. He also has a weekly Charger podcast at www.DanMcLellan.com.
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